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OPINION METER

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proposal to create a
Marine Monument in
the northern islands?

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INSIDE



Expanding to Kagman

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. is branching out to the fastest growing village on Saipan with the expected opening of Joeten Kagman Market before the end of the summer.

Local...Page 9



Quake Aftermath

Soldiers rushed to shore up a dam cracked by this week's powerful earthquake, and rescuers came by helicopter and ship Wednesday into the isolated epicenter but still were forced to dig for survivors with their bare hands.

Asia...Page 28

INTRODUCING

ICONNECT'S
25-5 MABUHAY
TALK & TEXT!

New policy for vacationing alien workers questioned. **PAGE 2**
Teachers, students concerned over delay in school opening. **PAGE 3**

US lawmakers back \$15M aid

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Fourteen U.S. lawmakers have expressed their support for the CNMI and American Samoa's aid request.

The lawmakers in a letter dated May 13, 2008, called on congressional leaders to approve an emergency supplemental appropriation of \$15 million each for the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.

They said the funds "will serve as a fiscal bridge to a sustainable future for American Samoa and CNMI, and ... will save both economies from economic collapse."

See US on Page 4

Only fraction of alien workers may qualify for H visa—Cinta

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat said only a very small fraction of the alien workers presently in the CNMI could possibly qualify for an H visa under the current U.S. rules.

Labor has done an informal study of its records and it appears that well below 10 percent of the foreign workers may qualify, said Kaipat.

H visa is also referred to as temporary workers' visa. There are several categories of nonimmigrant visas for an indi-

See ONLY on Page 4



HONORING WAR DEAD

Koreans offer a wreath, food, and incense to pay tribute to Korean civilians who sacrificed their lives during the war on Saipan and Tinian during the 31st Annual Korean Overseas Victim Memorial ceremony at the Korean Memorial Peace Shrine in Marpi yesterday. Inset shows Daegu University R.O.T.C students rendering a salute. See story on Page 14

Pete A. declares candidacy

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has formally announced his candidacy for CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Tenorio, who has represented the CNMI in Washington, D.C. for over six years, is the first to declare his bid for the new position.

"It is my honor to inform you as chairman, and to officials and members of our great Republican Party of our Common-



Tenorio

wealth, that I will be a candidate for that most important elected office for our Commonwealth," Tenorio said in a letter to Tom B. Pangalinan, chairman of the NMI Republican Party.

Tenorio asked for the party's endorsement, and vowed to "defer and abide by our party's best judgment."

Tenorio had previously expressed his interest in running for delegate, which he said would be "a very challenging job, and ... consistent with the work I have done

See PETE on Page 4

Karidat clientele highest in 10 years

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Karidat Social Service has reported that recipients receiving services out of the non-profit charitable institution for its calendar year 2007 has been the highest ever in 10 years.

Executive director Angie V. Leon Guerrero said Karidat's clientele has more than doubled from 2,051 individuals 10 years ago to 4,515 indi-

See KARIDAT on Page 4

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Local**New policy for vacationing alien workers questioned**

The Department of Labor should have announced to the public before implementing the new policy that requires vacationing alien workers to notify Labor about their exit, according to the leader of a foreign worker's group.

Irene Tantiado, president of Coalition of United Workers, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the new policy is not difficult to comply with, but Labor should at least explain its purpose to make people understand.

"What effort did they make to explain it to the public? It's purpose is not clear at all!" she said.



Tantiado said she received information on Wednesday that a nurse was not allowed to enter Saipan because he or she failed to notify Labor about his or her exit.

She said it is so easy to follow the regulations, but the non-announcement has serious consequences to the

guest workers.

"I called Labor and they told me it's only for data base," Tantiado said.

Labor public education and outreach director Rose Ada-Hocog on Wednesday confirmed about the implementation of the new policy. She said a foreign national worker who fails to file notice to Labor about his or her exit before departing the CNMI may be precluded from entering the Commonwealth.

Ada-Hocog said under Section 5 of the Labor Rules and

See **NEW** on Page 4

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Senate confirms three appointees

The Senate confirmed three gubernatorial appointments yesterday.

Members of the Upper House voted

to approve the nominations of Diego Songsong as secretary of the Department of Public Works, Bernie Palacios

as a member of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees, and Jesse Manglona as a member of the Common-

wealth Development Authority board of directors.

Songsong was named to replace former DPW Secretary Jose Demapan, who resigned in December 2007. Songsong has pledged to pay attention to the backlog of federally funded capital improvement projects overlooked by his predecessors.

"Because of the current state of the CNMI economy, my main task now is to spend CIP money administered by DPW to help stimulate the local economies of the three major islands of the CNMI," said Songsong.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has said that since he took office, the Commonwealth drew down a total of \$51 million of CIP money. That amount represents 46 percent of the cumulative balance available for the CNMI's use. He has bared a plan to use within the next six months about \$39 million of the CIP funds towards unspecified projects that will "stimulate the economy."

Palacios, a re-appointee, represents Tinian to the Retirement Fund board. Manglona will represent Rota to CDA. (Agnes E. Donato)



IN SOMBER REMEMBRANCE

Department of Public Safety police officers carry a wreath followed by family members of officers who died in the line of duty during the wreath-laying and candles presentation for the 2008 National Peace Officer Memorial Day celebration at the DPS central office in Susupe Thursday afternoon. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NEW

From Page 2

Regulations pursuant to Public Law 15-108 states that "a foreign national worker who exits during the term of an approved employment contract shall file, with the (Labor) enforcement division, a notice on the standard form provided by the Department."

She, however, did not say when did

Labor start implementing the policy.

Asked by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday on the exact date of the implementation, Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas said it only started on Monday.

San Nicolas said Labor director Barry Hirshbein can answer all the questions about that new policy.

Saipan Tribune repeatedly contacted Hirshbein, but he was not available. (Ferdie de la Torre)

KARIDAT

From Page 1

viduals for calendar year 2007.

Karidat provides five different kinds of services to the community. Last year, Karidat assisted 117 individuals through its Victims of Crime Advocacy Program; 1,322 individuals through its Victim Hotline; admitted 256 individuals to its Guma Esperansa; registered 1,074 in its House of Manhoben; and provided emergency food and shelter through its family services program to

1,746 individuals.

According to Leon Guerrero, need for their services have "really gone up this year because of the economic crisis. We have many people losing their jobs, many people with reduced hours and that effects the incomes of families."

The Karidat Social Service, which works with an annual budget of \$890,386, says assistance from the agency is "very limited."

With its annual budget last calendar year, the non-profit organization was expected to provide assistance to its 4,515 clients.

"This is not enough because we have cases where they [Karidat clients] stay in the shelter for months at a time. With that, we have to feed them, bathe them, and provide medical assistance to them when they get sick."

Leon Guerrero said that Karidat does not receive a penny from the Compact Impact Funds although more than one third of the agency's clients are from the Freely Associated States.

The Compact Impact Funds are provided to certain U.S. jurisdictions to help offset the costs associated with migration from the Marshall Islands, the Federated

States of Micronesia, and Palau under the Compacts of Free Association.

Compact Impact funds totaling \$30 million are divided annually among Guam, Hawaii, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas. The program started in 2004 and will continue through 2008.

Leon Guerrero said the agency has tried to ask the government for some of the funds in the past, but "they said that they do not want to promote dependency on welfare assistance. So we don't get a penny from the Compact Impact Funds."

Leon Guerrero said she never agreed to that decision, "We provide services to them after all. I think the funds should have been divided fairly."

She added that only 11 percent of Karidat's annual budget comes from the local government, "the rest comes from federal grants. But we try to make the most out of what we have available in our jurisdiction."

"It's a big challenge everyday. There are new problems and new issues to confront. We can really do more for these people if we had more funding," Leon Guerrero said.

PETE

From Page 1

since my time as a negotiator of the Covenant."

Ana Teregeyo, vice president of the local Republican Party, said the party is still in the process of drafting rules for selecting a candidate for delegate. "In fact, the board of directors is now

meeting to discuss the prerequisites for candidates and the timeline for the selection process. We have not come to Pete A.'s letter yet," she said.

The Fitial administration, which has been at odds with Tenorio over recent federal policy changes on labor and immigration in the CNMI, said Tenorio is facing "an uphill battle." Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said Tenorio had alienated many voters by support-

ing immigration federalization.

"Pete A.'s candidacy would be a referendum on federalization. If he wins decisively, I think we can safely say that our people support federalization. We look forward to that judgment," said Reyes.

Other candidates reported to be interested in running for delegate include Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, Associate Judge Juan Lizama, Elec-

tion Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, and former attorney general and now attorney in private practice Robert Torres.

The election for the delegate position will take place on Nov. 4, 2008. But the electoral process begins in less than two months. The Election Commission will accept nominating petitions and candidacy documents from July 7 to Aug. 6.

Under the recently enacted delegate law, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

ONLY

From Page 1

vidual who wishes to work temporarily in the U.S.

The H visa was among the issues discussed by Kaipat in her interim progress report No. 4 on the implementation of Public Law 15-108 or the

labor reform law that she submitted to the Legislature on Wednesday.

"There has been considerable talk about the possibility that the H visas issued by the U.S. would protect foreign workers currently in the Commonwealth after federalization of immigration takes effect after the next year," the deputy secretary said.

The former lawmaker explained that

H-1 visas require a college degree or equivalent experience, while H-2 visas are available only for temporary work.

She pointed out that Labor knows how many foreign workers have college degrees because they are required to declare their educational background in connection with their arrival in the Commonwealth.

"We can measure the 'equivalent ex-

perience' (as the U.S. administers that requirement) and it is readily apparent that almost no foreign workers could qualify," Kaipat said.

The deputy secretary said the only workers who would qualify as "temporary" are construction workers coming in for particular projects, crane operators, and other specialized occupations that come for a short de-

fined period, and dance bands or other entertainment acts that come for a short stay.

Kaipat said all other occupations, including domestic helpers, farmers, and fishermen, are classified as "permanent" by the U.S. and that there are many administrative and court decisions making these rules quite restrictive in their application.

US

From Page 1

"We are requesting \$15 million for each territory to use in assisting employers and employees, citizens and guest workers, and the local governments during this difficult and challenging period. These funds will maintain economic stability for the next year until such time as Congress reviews the economic impact of further increases in minimum wage," said the group led by California Rep. Michael Honda and American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega, chair and vice chair of the Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus.

The Fitial administration welcomed the lawmakers' petition. "We appreciate it, and we want to see more support for the islands," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

He also saw the congressional members' move as a sign of what he described as the effectiveness of the lobbying firm, which the administration hired last month for \$25,000 to push for the federal aid.

The original position of the CNMI and American Samoa governments

was to oppose any further hikes to the local minimum wage, now at \$3.55 an hour. Seeing that Congress would not amend the federal wage law, the two governments called for the federal aid which they said would cushion the impact of the wage increase on their economies.

The next 50-cent hike will apply on May 26, 2008. The minimum wage will increase yearly until it reaches the federal level of \$7.25 an hour.

The U.S. lawmakers in their letter said they also prefer to delay minimum wage hikes in American Samoa and the CNMI from every year to every

two years, and to allow increases only if the U.S. Labor secretary finds that they would not hurt employment in the islands. But congressional committees reviewing the proposal have come out publicly against it.

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures has also adopted a resolution backing the CNMI and American Samoa's request for a combined \$30-million financial aid from the U.S. Congress.

"The funds will provide necessary support for the local economies during this period of economic crisis in each jurisdiction, and will create the

base of information that will assist the Congress committees' interest in helping these jurisdictions attain a greater degree of economic sustainability," the APIL said.

American Samoa and the Northern Marianas plan to use the money to maintain public services, provide incentives to American Samoa's tuna industry and the CNMI's tourism industry, install fuel storage facilities, offer emergency financial relief to affected employers, supplement local Medicare caps, increase economic data collection, and conduct wage increase impact studies.

Counter-complaint leads to Sam Joyner's arrest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police also arrested on Wednesday night musician Samuel Joyner after the two merchant marines who allegedly beat him up have filed a counter-complaint against him.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that based on the investigation on the counter-complaint, on the evening of April 26, Joyner was looking for his former girlfriend, Florence.

At the time, Florence was in one of the rooms at PIC after Pringle invited her for their drinking session.

Later, Joyner and Amanda Kaipat proceeded to PIC after he learned that Florence was at PIC.

Amanda stated that Joyner was very angry and when they arrived at PIC he took a brown champagne bottle from a backpack and stuffed it behind his back in his pants.

Joyner was allegedly uttering profanity and threatened he was going to beat up whoever that person was with his "girl."

When Kaipat knocked on the door at room 125, Knights opened it. Joyner then barged in and asked for Florence.

When Knights told him Florence was not there, Joyner saw

Saipan's shore. Last Friday, the two, who are out on bail, went to the Department of Public Safety to file a counter-complaint against Joyner.

a person covered with a bed sheet on the bed. He pulled out the sheet and attempted to hit the person with his closed fist, but it turned out the person was Knight's girlfriend.

Joyner left the room and stated he would look for Florence and Pringle.

Joyner spotted Pringle and Florence at the beach side, sitting on a beach chair. Florence

was vomiting after drinking alcohol and Pringle was rubbing her back to comfort her.

Joyner allegedly approached and shouted "Can you explain to me why you are all hugged

up at the beach with my girl?"

Pringle asked what was he talking about and stated what he was going to do.

Joyner then allegedly hit Pringle.

See COUNTER on Page 7

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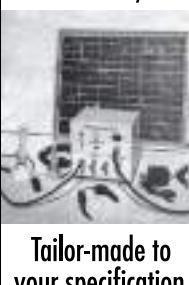
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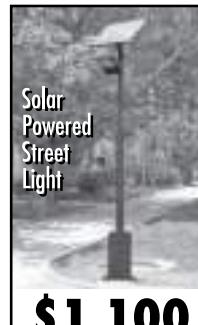


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House questions Fitial's takeover of CPA

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has objected to the governor's takeover of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The members of the Lower House voted 18-0 to adopt a resolution to express their disapproval of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's move to declare a state of disaster emergency for CPA and shift the autonomous agency to the Governor's Office.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios abstained. His brother, Rex Palacios, is the chairman of the CPA board of directors,

which was suspended when the governor placed CPA under his direct control.

Rep. Rosemond Santos was absent.

The lawmakers said the reason cited by Fitial for his action does not justify a state of disaster emergency declaration. They also accused the governor of trying to keep the Legislature out of the loop.

"The House finds that the issuance of this State of Disaster Emergency is nothing more than an unoriginal attempt to circumvent legislative oversight," they stated in the resolution.

"[The] governor's use of

extraordinary State of Emergency powers is disingenuous and sets an irreparably damaging policy precedent. This brazen 'emergency' strategy may become the model for future executives that cannot and will not follow proper legal procedures," they added.

Fitial had said the declaration was necessary because of the CPA board's repeated failure to muster a quorum to act on measures that would save CPA from further financial damage.

The ports authority is nearing a technical default on the 1998 indenture on its airport revenue bonds. If the default

occurs, CPA could be forced to pay the entire principal and interest of the bonds immediately. Bank of Guam, which serves as the bond trustee, could also issue a default notice and take over the Saipan International Airport.

But according to the House, CPA's situation does not call for the use of the governor's emergency authority. The lawmakers argued that the constitutional power was not intended to be used to assist any government agency in repaying a debt.

The Constitution, they pointed out, cites events such

as "invasion," "civil disturbance," "natural disaster," and "calamity" as justifications for the use of emergency powers. Further, an analysis of the Constitution offers an example of what rises to the level of a state of emergency as "the unavailability of public utilities, transportation, or communications."

In this case, none of those events has occurred and there is no legally sufficient basis for the declaration of a State of Disaster Emergency, indeed the takeover of CPA is far afield of what the Constitution and statutes of the Common-

wealth contemplated as a situation requiring extraordinary emergency intervention," the resolution stated.

The House members said that while they recognize the gravity of defaulting on a bond obligation, there are far less extreme alternatives than a state of emergency or reorganization plan. One such alternative, they said, is to replace the "wayward" board members at CPA.

Speaking for the administration, press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. implied that the House might not have a full grasp of CPA's fi-

See HOUSE on next page

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COUNTER

From Page 5

gle on the head with a hard object so he tackled the musician to the ground.

Joyner allegedly hit Pringle again on the side of his head with what appeared to be a bottle wrapped in tape.

Pringle claimed that he then punched the musician in self-defense. Florence ran back to room 125 where she called Knights to stop the fight.

Knights, Florence, and Kaipat all ran back to the beach.

Knights tried to take away the bottle from Joyner. When he failed, Knights kicked Joyner several times and finally got the bottle and threw it away.

Kaipat started beating Florence. Pringle and Knights stopped the two girls and Joyner

HOUSE

From Page 6

nancial problem.

"Why would they object when we're trying to save CPA? Maybe we need to provide them more information," he said.

He added that the governor used his state of emergency power to safeguard the bond agreement and, ultimately, to preserve the entire commonwealth's borrowing viability for many years to come.

On Monday, Fitial issued an executive order placing CPA under the Governor's Office for 120 days. By law, however, such reorganization plan cannot go into effect until the Legislature has had 60 days to review—and possibly to amend or void—the proposal.

Citing the urgency of CPA's financial trouble, the governor on Tuesday issued the state of emergency declaration. This allowed him to take over the ports authority immediately. Using his state of emergency powers, Fitial on the same day signed directives raising CPA rates, imposing austerity measures, and ending the incentive program for airlines flying to the Northern Marianas.



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ran away.

Knights and Pringle walked back to room 125 followed by Kaipat and Florence.

Later Joyner approached Florence and told her she was going home with him.

When Florence said "no"

Joyner pushed her hard, causing her to fall to the ground.

Kaipat stopped Joyner and told him to leave because she will talk to Florence.

A security advisor arrived and called the police. Joyner left PIC.

Pringle suffered a small laceration on the back of head. The guard supervisor gave him medical assistance. When a police officer came, Pringle said he would not want to file a complaint.

Pringle, 27, and Knights, 23,

were first arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

After the alleged beating, Joyner drove himself to the Commonwealth Health Center for abrasions and bruises to the

right face and bruises to the left ribcage. He stated he probably has a fractured left rib.

The first police report stated that Pringle first attacked Joyner then later Knights joined up in the beating of the musician.

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Wiseman admonishes a convicted child sexual abuser for calling court kangaroo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has admon-

ished a convicted child sexual abuser who, in his motion for Wiseman's disqualification, claimed that his case was railroaded through a kangaroo court.

Wiseman said that, in view of the form and content of defendant Juan Borja Camacho's language, the court does not believe that a disinterested observer would reasonably question the impartiality of a judge based solely on said language.

"Numerous cases follow the admonition to reject recusal when the alleged basis for it requires suspicion or speculation beyond what the reasonable person would indulge," said the judge in denying Camacho's motion for disqualification.

In this case, Wiseman said, the court finds that such admonition is appropriate.

Citing previous court decisions, the judge said a judge is presumed to be impartial and petitioners bear the substantial burden of proving otherwise.

According to court records in this case, police learned from the victim that Camacho sexually abused her at his residence on July 12 and 13, 2004.

In September 2006, the jury found Camacho guilty on two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

The jurors, however, acquit-

ted the defendant on two counts of kidnapping.

Wiseman also convicted Camacho of two counts of disturbing the peace.

In November 2006, Wiseman ordered the then 57-year-old Camacho to spend 30 years in prison.

Camacho, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, moved for reduction of sentence. But Wiseman denied the motion.

Camacho then filed a pro se petition for habeas corpus. He moved to disqualify Wiseman from hearing the petition. In his pro se letter or document, the defendant claimed he was wrongly convicted and cruelly sentenced by a kangaroo court.

Camacho later requested to dismiss his petition.

In his decision issued on Wednesday, Wiseman said although the petition was already dismissed, he does not deem the motion for disqualification moot.

He said a motion to recuse a judge is not just another procedural or evidentiary motion.

"It is a direct attack on one of the basic principles of the judiciary, the impartiality of trial courts," the judge said.

A recusal motion, Wiseman said, is unlike other motions in that the mere filing of the motion impacts unfavorably upon the public's perception of the administration of justice.

Wiseman said if a defendant could readily manipulate the system by issuing derogatory statements about a judge or a court, in attempts to disqualify every jurist assigned on a case or until the defendant gets a judge he preferred, the defendant would then be able to force delays, and perhaps make the cases against him more difficult to try.

"Such blatant manipulation would subvert our processes, undermine our notions of fair play and justice, and damage the public's perception of the judiciary," the judge said.



Wiseman

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**Head Start Policy Council
Agenda**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on May 20, 2008 (Tuesday), from 10:30am-2:30pm Conference Room of the Aging Office, Garapan, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Quorum
D. Adoption of Agenda
E. Adoption of Minutes
1. April 17, 2008

II. Reports
A. Updates
1. Program Improvement Projects
2. Human Resources
B. Financial Report
1. Monthly Financial Status Report for April 2008
C. Program Director
1. Monthly Report for April 2008
D. Written Service Area Plans for SY 07-08
E. Standing Committees
1. Personnel
2. Education Curriculum
3. Executive
4. Finance
5. Public Relations

III. Old Business
IV. New Business
A. Action Item
1. Approval of 2008-2009 One-Time T&TA Supplemental Funding Application

V. Executive Session
VI. Next Meeting
VII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Meyers at 664-3751.

Mr. Efren Atalig
Chairperson

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 16, 2000

Kumoi: Audit senators

Expenditures by senators came under close scrutiny after a colleague asked the Office of Public Auditor yesterday to determine how taxpayers' dollars are spent by the Senate whether or not they pass the test of the "public purpose" law. Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero expressed dismay and disappointment over major expenditures made by his colleagues in recent months following a disclosure by Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen in response to his request for these documents.

Babauta agrees to vacate office in 15 days

CNMI Representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta will vacate his office in 15 days and move to the official residence of House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial in Capitol Hill. This was the agreement entered into by both Mr. Babauta and Mr. Fitial during a hearing before the Superior Court on the motion of the Washington Representative to stop the relocation of his office.

Public concerns raised vs poor cable reception

Haven't seen your favorite Filipino programs lately or if you sometimes do, are you enjoying the quality of your television set's reception? Before you decide to throw your Trinitron or Wega to the electronics repair shop next door or before you call for technical support, check your neighbor's cable services and you are likely to find out that you share the same problem.

MAY 16, 2001

Takeover threats pulled down user fee collection

Customs Director Jose C. Mafnas yesterday blamed revived federal takeover threats on the significant decline in the amount of garment user fee collections in calendar year 2000. Aside from federalization threats, protectionist investment measures implemented by the CNMI government have also been discouraging expansion of existing investments, while virtually blocking the entry of new business ventures.

CNMI stands firm vs. takeover

The CNMI government is crafting strong measures to block latest attempt in the US Congress to extend federal immigration and labor laws into the Northern Marianas, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio disclosed yesterday. Mr. Tenorio said his administration will continue urging the US Congress to abandon proposed measures that would federalize the Commonwealth's labor and immigration systems.

New round of PCB study pressed

Tanapag residents are pressing the Legislature to allow the release of some \$700,000 initially identified to fund an independent sampling and study of PCB contamination in the village. Last week, Tanapag Action Group officers and members met with Sen. Joaquin Adriano and other lawmakers, including the Tinian delegation, to urge members of the Senate to pass House Bill 12-378.

MAY 16, 2002

Senate coup goes pfft

The leadership coup attempt at the Senate has fizzled out, after Tinian Sen. Jose Dela Cruz turned down the offer to supplant Sen. Paul A. Manglona as Senate President. Saying he feels the present Senate leadership should remain intact, Dela Cruz said he made his decision to stick with the present leadership after consulting with his family, friends and supporters. Although guarded in his comments, Manglona later said he is always of the belief that the senators have a lot of things to do in the Senate and the 13th Legislature.

'Resignation not intended to create new leadership'

Making good on his promise, Senate Vice President David M. Cing has resigned from the Senate leadership, effective Friday. In a two-page letter that cited two instances of what he described as "betrayals" by Senate President Paul A. Manglona, Cing resigned as vice president of the upper chamber and as chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations.

Joeten to open Kagman store

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. is branching out to the fastest growing village on Saipan with the expected opening of Joeten Kagman Market before the end of the summer.

Vice president Clarence P. Tenorio Jr. said that the locally owned retail company, which is celebrating its 59th year of doing business this month, is planning to construct a 5,500-square-foot medium-sized grocery store at its expansive Kagman property.

He said the store, which is about a \$1 million overall investment, will be slightly smaller in size than its Joeten Dandan Market and will essentially carry the same variety of items.

Tenorio added that they recently received approval from the Zoning Board to construct the store and are currently awaiting other regulatory agencies to green light their construction plans.

"We feel right now that the Kagman area with its large population is under-served. People who live there have to drive to the Susupe area and the Garapan area to get a lot of their needs. And with gas hitting \$4.50 it really hurts people to drive that far away to get the variety that they want and at the price they can afford," said Tenorio.

He said it is his company's hope that the opening of a Joeten store in Kagman would give residents there more choices for their grocery needs.

"I understand that there are currently stores in the Kagman area but they are kind of small-

er and they just have the basic needs," he said. "We'd like to bring the Joeten brand, the Joeten variety, and the competitive Joeten pricing, especially when we have our promotions. Imagine when we have our Early Bird sale in Susupe, the same price will apply in Kagman because we're all under the same umbrella."

Tenorio said that as an added bonus, KUMHO Asiana also broke ground on its Golftel and golf course expansion last May 1 and he said this is yet another sign that branching out to Kagman was indeed the right decision.

And according to Tenorio, Joeten Kagman Market is just the start.

"The overall plan, the grand plan, is for a commercial complex. We're just going to start with a medium-size grocery store but expansion plans can call for, maybe an Ace Hardware, a restaurant, other retail outlets...it's such a big property that you can just add on. But for now the demand is for a grocery store. The grocery store will come up but then the option exists to put other [facilities] when the time is right," he said.

Aside from fulfilling their grocery needs, the new Joeten Kagman Market may also provide employment for residents in the area.

"A store that size would need anywhere from seven to nine employees and the positions to run a medium-size grocery store can definitely be filled by all local hire. If we find qualified residents in the Kagman area it just makes sense to hire people from that area," said Tenorio.

Local group blames Hofsneider for high power rates

TaoTao Tano CNMI president Greg Cruz is blaming Rep. Heinz Hofsneider for killing the 17.6 cents per kWh power rates.

In a letter to Hofsneider, Cruz stated that he recalls the congressman "crying the loudest to repeal Public Law 15-94, [which brought about] the 17.6 cents per kilowatt residential electrical rates last week. Today you are whining because it is not what you expected."



Cruz

Cruz said Hofsneider is now acting as though "he is really trying to do something about the questionable exorbitant rates when it was him and a majority of others who voted for the governor's unlimited reprogramming authority, including

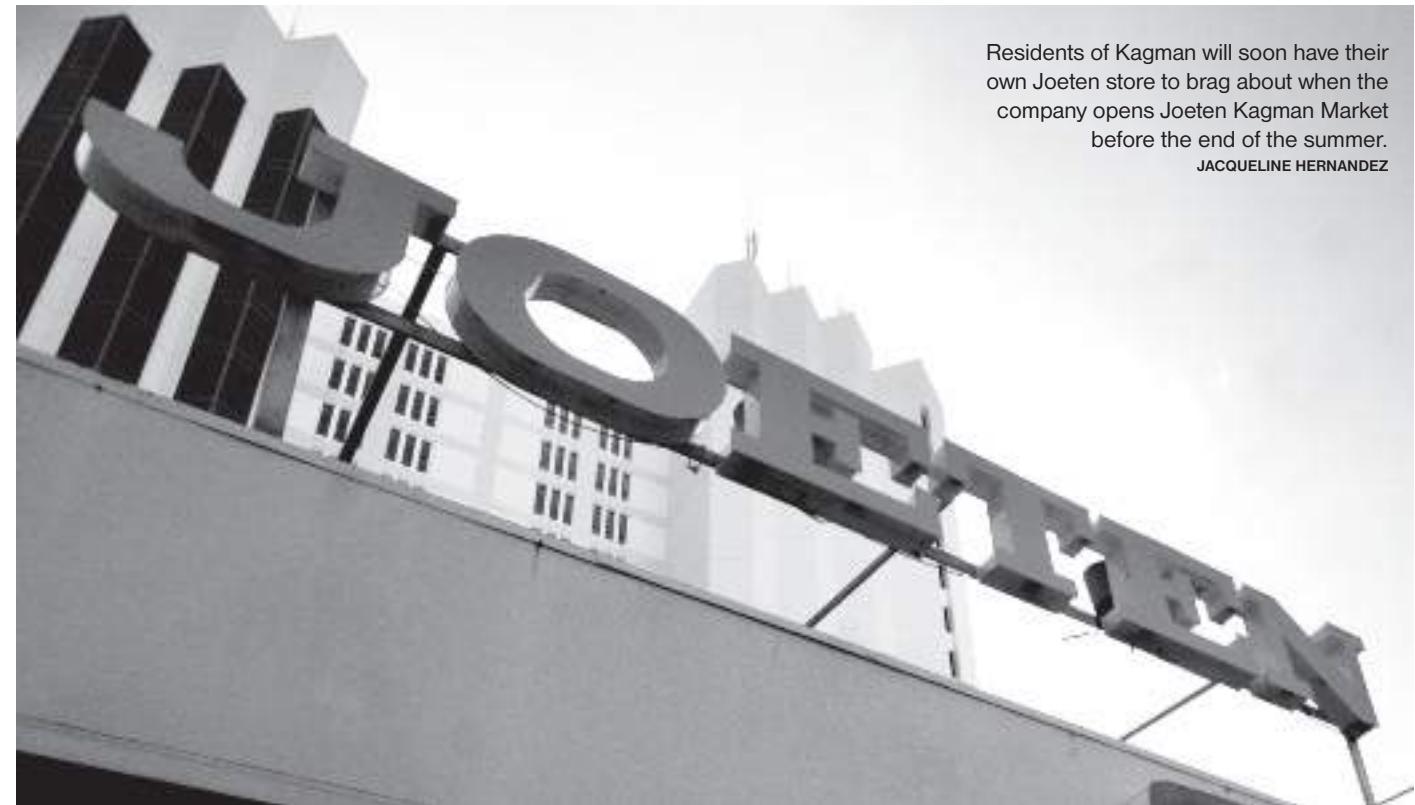
the 50 percent of our CUC security deposits to pay for his fuel cost without doing his homework.

Power rates doubled after the governor signed into law a bill reversing the October 2007 roll-back.

From paying 17.6 cents per kWh during the past two months, residential customers will now be charged rates ranging from 37.3 cents to 48.4 cents per kWh. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

Hofsneider recently wrote a letter to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna demanding information on the basis for the new power rates.

He stated that that new rates are too high and wants to know how CUC arrived at them.



Residents of Kagman will soon have their own Joeten store to brag about when the company opens Joeten Kagman Market before the end of the summer.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Keep stockpiling oil

Legislation to halt deposits to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve may be the most popular initiative from Congress this year. But it's a bad economic bet, bad for national security and gives the American public the false impression that lawmakers are actually doing something about skyrocketing gasoline prices. President Bush should veto the bill—even though Congress passed legislation by huge margins Tuesday and could actually override his veto.

It may seem logical for the government to try to decrease demand for oil and thus prices by not buying roughly 70,000 barrels a day to deposit in the strategic reserve. In fact, according to the Department of Energy, the amount being stockpiled amounts to just 0.1 percent of global daily oil consumption. The net effect at U.S. gas pumps of temporarily halting reserve purchases would be close to nil.

One might argue that the effect on America's ability to withstand an energy crisis is also just about nil. At the moment, the reserve holds about 703 million barrels, enough for about 58 days at current consumption levels. That's a mighty meager rainy-day larder for a nation as addicted to oil as the United States. And that's why Congress, in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, directed that the strategic reserve be expanded to 1 billion barrels. That's still meager, but it would give us a bit more time to respond to a significant interruption of oil supplies.

The most plausible scenario for an oil shock isn't an embargo, as in 1974, but a decision by Iran to threaten the vital Strait of Hormuz. It's highly unlikely that Tehran would attempt to close the strait entirely; it knows it would lose an armed confrontation with the U.S. and forfeit export income as well. But in a confrontation over its nuclear program, Iran could certainly rattle its sabers loudly enough to scare oil prices up to stratospheric heights. Under such circumstances, a U.S. president might decide to release some oil into the domestic market to smooth a temporary price spike, just as Bush did after Hurricane Katrina.

The problem is that today's high gasoline prices probably aren't very temporary. Oil is at \$125 a barrel because of a broad market consensus that supplies will not significantly increase in the near future; that demand from India, China or even U.S. drivers isn't likely to slump much; and that oil futures are a good hedge against inflation. Even if supplies increase and the dollar strengthens—and we wouldn't bet on that—demand is so insatiable that prices likely won't fall any time soon. That's all the more reason for the U.S. to keep stockpiling reserves.

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The sound of the Huey

If I was to draft a list of my closest friends—in Saipan or elsewhere—of those holding U.S. passports, a majority would be military veterans or members of the reserves. There is a common element of character that unifies those who served.

Think about it: When you're 18, or 22, or whatever, and you've got a choice between being a cubicle worker or becoming, say, an M-1 tank commander, it's a profound choice. For a select minority of people, adventure is a true calling. And, fortunately, many such people have decided to call the Commonwealth home.

Had I wanted to be a doctor, or a dentist, or a minister, or an attorney, I don't know if I would have considered the military, since I would have had a clear professional path to follow after my schooling. (Of course, these professions are all well-represented in uniform, too.) But most of us average folks find (or found, since I'm an old fart now) the after graduation phase of life to hold the threat of turning us into generic desk-bound nobodies, slithering like reptiles to make a buck, then living vicariously via the television set, and that's a fate that I just couldn't face.

On the few occasions when I've had a hand in corporate hiring decisions, I've always given resumes with any military service a top-of-the-pile placement. That's not just patriotism at work, it's a matter of sound management. After all, any preening little punk can have his daddy send him to a diploma mill, but daddy can't earn your PFC stripe for you. I think Saipan has plenty of examples of this to consider.

There are some things you just can't forget. I remember when I was a high school sophomore, bored nearly to death on a warm spring day, in class. I was probably drooling on myself, or maybe snoring, when I was stirred by the distinct, and unique, whop-whop of an inbound Huey helicopter. It turns out that the Army or the National Guard (sorry, I forgot which) was flying a copter into my school's athletic field on a recruitment drive.

Talk about a contrast: The dynamics of the helicopter vs. the tomb-like stillness of the classroom. It was an oasis of action in a

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at SaipanBlog.com and TropicalEd.com.

desert of institutional boredom.

I made a beeline for the classroom door, whereupon the teacher told me I was too young for the recruitment drive and to sit back down at my desk, whereupon I told him to cram it, and off I went to the copter. Hey, once a truant, always a truant.

I lied about my age to the recruiter, of course, just so I could crawl over the Huey, and I got a little tour of the machine from the crew chief. There is nothing in the world cooler than a Huey helicopter.

This comes to mind today because there's a little bit of griping in some commentary circles that the Armed Forces are being bad guys for recruiting in schools. Well, I'm very happy that the Armed Forces dangled that helicopter in front of me, because it put a tangible face on the specter of adventure. My pals feel the same way. Something had to motivate us. And it was the military that did so. Thank goodness.

Looking back on things, the best times I've ever had were when I'd fly a chopper to the exotic wilds of the Commonwealth's Northern Islands. If it hadn't been for that Huey in high school, those adventures would never have been on the menu. That recruitment drive was the most important element of my high school education, and, perhaps not surprisingly, it didn't come in the classroom, or from a teacher, but from an NCO who probably wasn't even 30 years old yet.

That's a fact to be saluted, not derided.



EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Quietly surviving in a not-so-new Iraq

By CAMERON W. BARR
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Cameron W. Barr is The Washington Post's Middle East editor.

In the last years of Saddam Hussein's rule, eager for some relief from Iraq's dreary state-run television, a businessman named Emad T. Yousif bought an illegal satellite dish. He set it up on his Baghdad rooftop, making sure that it couldn't be seen from the street or his neighbors' houses. Only then did he realize that he had gone too far.

There was no way to prevent his young children from letting slip a reference to the new entertainment they were suddenly enjoying, which might get back to their friends' parents, which might get back to the regime. Such was life during what Iraqis call "the Saddam time": the very real possibility that the parents of your kids' friends would rat you out.

He dismantled the dish.

Yousif enjoyed some personal prosperity and a whispered, furtive liberty under the Baathist regime, always striving to avoid any undue attention from the vast intelligence apparatus that helped keep Saddam in power. Balding, oval-faced, eyes slightly downcast, Yousif played the gray man well.

Five years into the U.S. effort to remake his country, Yousif, now 53, plays that role still. If the essence of freedom is the opportunity to assert oneself, Iraq has a long way to go. Now as then, Iraqis who want to survive shrink back into themselves, lie low, let attention find someone else.

Satellite dishes are no longer a problem; everyone has them. And the Stasi-like repression of the dictatorship is over: Government agents no longer visit Yousif once a week to ask after his well-being and whether — polite smile — the intelligence service might be of some help. He is certain no one is vetting his e-mails or recording his overseas phone calls.

But in this post-Saddam time, other threats impose themselves. Material ostentation draws kidnappers, political engagement invites assassination, and time spent outside the seeming safety of four walls

carries the risk of being caught in the middle of horrific violence. In 2006, Yousif's cousin, an engineer, "was driving in the street, and they shot him," Yousif recalled when I met with him in Baghdad in March. The family has no idea who killed the man, or why, or even if there was a reason.

Army Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, told Congress last month that levels of violence had significantly diminished. But Yousif is still afraid to live in the high-end Baghdad neighborhood where he has built his dream home, because from time to time there are "accidents" in the area. Accidents? "I mean killing," he explained in his clear but sometimes imperfect English. "We don't know the reason behind this killing, but it still tells you that it's not under control."

The chaotic aftermath of an invasion intended, in part, to promote

democracy has convinced Yousif to stay as far away as possible from power: "We are people not involved in hot issues, which is politics or religion or whatever it is. We are normal, neutral people. I believe most of Iraq is like this. And we got experience from the old regime how we can manage ourselves."

In October 2002, Iraq beckoned the international media to cover a referendum on Saddam's rule. The scores of foreign reporters visiting Baghdad overwhelmed the Ministry of Information, enabling me to slip away from my government "minder" and take a taxi to Yousif's office. I arrived alone and unannounced, bearing an introduction from a mutual friend in Jordan. Yousif took me into his confidence.

We spent many hours together over the next few days, mainly in his SUV, driving around Baghdad at night. He told me that he felt safest in the car, which he was certain was not bugged. Meeting anyplace else — his home or office, my hotel, a restaurant



THE WASHINGTON POST

The key to survival in modern-day Iraq isn't too different from the way it was practiced during Saddam Hussein's regime: don't call too much attention to yourself.

— attracted undue attention.

Then the country manager for a Swiss-based agricultural products company, Yousif enjoyed an enviable productive life in an atrophied economy. He was proud of his nation, his family, his career. He despised Saddam for the Iran-Iraq War and the U.N. sanctions the dictator had provoked by maintaining the illusion that he was hiding weapons of mass destruction.

The regime's grip was both brutal and banal. Yousif told me about relatives and friends who had come under suspicion. Some had disappeared, some were dead, some were in exile.

He also described what had happened after he established an e-mail account with the state-run Internet service provider: His messages were taking days to reach their recipients abroad. When he complained, officials told him to write more simply to make it easier for the intelligence service to read his e-mail.

Yousif, KMN before my head asplodes

By MARY KOLESNIKOVA
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sometimes it is hard to tell the difference between a person LOLing and crying—but I am definitely weeping. The cause for my earth-shattering depression is an April 25 Pew Research Center study that polled 12- to 17-year-olds on their attitudes about writing. A heart-stopping 38 percent said they let chat-speak—such as LOL (for "laughing out loud"), ROFL ("rolling on the floor laughing"), BRB ("be right back"), TTYL ("talk to ya later")—slip into essays and homework.

I propose a new chat term: KMN. "Kill me now."

I'm an occasional tutor in San Francisco public schools with 826 Valencia, a writing-based community outreach program, and I have seen some linguistic horrors in the trenches. I've been asked how to spell "here" and "one" by high school seniors and seen more your/you're, there/their, to/too mix-ups than a homophone workbook. But at least those students were using actual words. I dread my first encounter with text-speak, but I know it's coming: "Marcel Marceau lived in France and totally brought the LOLz." Even more gut-tossing is the fact that 25 percent of teens in the Pew study have used emoticons on tests, homework

and essays. Oh, imagine the history papers: "When President Abe Lincoln was gatted, the whole country was :(, even though some in the South must have been :)"

KMN, KMN, KMN.

Linguistic butchery while texting is one thing. In school assignments, it is quite another. What's worse is how popular culture is encouraging this madness. A notorious offender called ICanHasCheezburger.com is a cute enough diversion—it posts adorable pictures of cats, "lolcats" as they're called, with funny captions. But persevere beyond your first gag reflex and you'll notice that the captions are written in lolspeak.

Lolspeak has its own wiki-dictionary online—sorry, a diks-hunary—where fanatics go to linguistically out-mangle one another. A recent entry on ICanHasCheezburger.com featured a cat looming over a laptop with the caption: "Just when u thot it wuz safe 2 go bak on teh interwebs." Another features a kitten: "why ur hed just asplode? wuz it my cuteness? sry."

Why did my head just "aspplode," kitty dear? Because I could not transcribe that caption without Microsoft Word's AutoCorrect going into overdrive. And because ICanHasCheezburger.com receives 50 million page views every single month. Only 50 percent of users are between 18 and 49—which means a

As we talked, U.S. forces were beginning to arrive in Kuwait, and an invasion seemed likely. I waited until the end of our time together to ask Yousif whether it was a good idea for President Bush to topple Saddam. I remember how trapped he looked by the question. "We want change," he said, "but we want it a different way."

The rest of his answer became the ending to the profile of Yousif — whose identity I shielded by using the pseudonym Ahmed — I wrote for the Christian Science Monitor, my employer at the time:

"They always say, let the Iraqi people decide," he says. "That's like telling a man in jail to free himself. He can't."

"The only thing Iraqis can do, Ahmed says, is wait. They have no influence over the US. They can't change their government themselves. 'We are like cockroaches feeding on sewage,' he says. 'We survive.'

I saw Yousif briefly in August 2003, after the U.S.-led invasion.

He showed off his newly built house, a stylish villa with a circular atrium decorated with a stained-glass window. He described how his sons had explored two ransacked houses in his posh Baghdad neighborhood. The intelligence service had used one building to store weapons and the other as a repository for files, including cassette tapes of international phone calls to or from Iraq.

Like many Iraqis, Yousif was still giddy that the Saddam time was over. Baghdad's mood was lighter; the anti-American insurgency was just gaining momentum.

I was happy to visit Yousif again this past March. He is now the general manager of his own firm, which imports and sells seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural and industrial goods. His company's sales to the private sector were \$1.1 million in 2006, he told me; he expects them to reach \$2 million this year. "I have an optimistic feeling," he said.

But the post-invasion conduct of the Americans continued to dismay him. When militaries topple governments, they usually maintain order, he observed. "But the Americans, they came here, and they break all the walls for the people, and all the laws fall down, and they let the people like this, so the people live like in a jungle."

When a client fails to pay for goods or services, Yousif asks mutual friends or members of the client's family or tribe to intercede. In the absence of a viable court system, shame-by-network generally makes people pay up. "You can close the book after a while," he said.

Yousif had once been pained at the thought of U.S. intervention; he now appeals for its continuation. If there is a rapid U.S. pullout, he said, "the scenario is very clear: The Kurds immediately will spin out. In the south, the Shia will spin out immediately, from eastern Baghdad to the south." The splintering could be avoided, he argued, if the Americans continue shepherding Iraqi politicians toward new elections and help them to build better security forces. "If you decide to come to this, you have to continue it; this is a commitment," he concluded.

Yousif's immediate family remains in Jordan, where they have

See QUIETLY on Page 13

OMG, KMN before my head asplodes

By MARY KOLESNIKOVA
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

large chunk of the under-18 set is picking up lolspeak when they should be learning English.

Hollywood's already on it. Last month, racy advertisements for the teen TV series "Gossip Girl" got a lot of buzz for printing "OMFG" in giant type under a photo of the sleek stars in a sultry, hazy embrace. Also last month, the U.S. Department of Education released the Nation's Report Card on Writing 2007. The results suggested that only 33 percent of eighth-graders demonstrated abilities at or above proficiency level. James H. Billington, the librarian of Congress, introduced these findings with a comment about "the slow destruction of the basic unit of human thought—the sentence." ROFL, James, the sentence is dead and buried. AOL Instant Messenger is dancing on its grave.

Yet according to the Pew survey, 86 percent of teens believe that good writing is an essential skill for later in life.

So teens, put your hands up and step away from MySpace while you're doing homework. Teachers, tutors, parents, it's time to face the enemy: lolspeak. It's fight now or face a sentence-less future of three-letter words. OMG.

Kolesnikova is a freelance writer and a tutor with 826 Valencia in San Francisco.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▾77°

▲86° ▾76°

▲86° ▾76°

▲85° ▾77°

▲86° ▾76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▾79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▾77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▾77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▾78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▾79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▾73
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▾77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▾46
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▾57
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▾73
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▾71
London	Cloudy	▲63 ▾48
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲98 ▾64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▾77
Melbourne	Showers	▲63 ▾50
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▾73
New York	Rain	▲62 ▾50
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲75 ▾58
Paris	Showers	▲63 ▾49
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲75 ▾54
Rome	Rain	▲74 ▾59
Salem	Sunny	▲100 ▾52
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▾55
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▾48
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲70 ▾57
Washington, DC	Rain	▲68 ▾50

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
4:51AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
11:53AM Today	Low Tide: 0.3 Feet
6:13PM Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet
11:37PM Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

	Today	5:48AM	6:39PM	Today	3:32PM	2:54AM
	Saturday	5:48AM	6:39PM	Saturday	4:20PM	3:29AM
	Sunday	5:48AM	6:39PM	Sunday	5:09PM	4:06AM
	Monday	5:47AM	6:40PM	Monday	6:00PM	4:45AM
	Tuesday	5:47AM	6:40PM	Tuesday	6:52PM	5:27AM

Moonrise/Moonset

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.	the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ CAMPUS BULLETIN	■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.	HOW TO SUBMIT
■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS	■ E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com .
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.	■ Fax: (670) 235-3740
■ BUSINESS	■ Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.	■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.
■ SAMUT SARI	To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.	■ The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
■ TRAVELOGUE	■ The Saipan Tribune will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.	■ For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS	

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Letter to the Editor

Desperation is a sign of fear

To Jerry,

I ask you this question, why are you still here? Didn't the National Labor Review Board, a federal agency deny or reject your frivolous labor complaint? What did you do or say to garner those 6,000 signatures? Did you promise your fellow nonresident guest workers "GREEN CARDS"? If so, under whose authority? Wendy Doromal or Allen Stayman? I ask you these questions because you seem to be really optimistic and determined as if you have some kind of connection with Immigration Naturalization Services.

Your desperation is a sign of

FEAR Mr. Custodio. Did Wendy Doromal promise you some sort of immunity or a bonus package for garnering 6,000 signatures or more? I hope not, for you are just wasting your time.

Since when does the Immigration Naturalization Services hand out "GREEN CARDS" simply because of the many contributions you contributed? Or that you have a U.S.-born child? Or participated in a Unity March, or lit 6,000 candle Vigils? I have never heard of such ignorance and desperation, but I can't blame you for this type of movement is an everyday event back home.

On the signature petitions, did

you happen to have them signed in both print and signatures, including telephone numbers, birth dates, and any other important and vital information? If so, good, it will make the federal government's job a lot easier to locate all of you especially if you are here illegally, just make sure that everyone that signed your petition has their documents in order and are legitimate when the feds start their transition otherwise you, DEKADA, Unity Coalition, and every foreign organization involved including Rep. Tina Sablan, Heinz Hofsneider, Edward Salas, and Victor Hocog whom you loudly commended for their efforts have a lot of answering to do from innocent nonresident guest workers.

Remember you stated that Mrs. Doromal, would carry the petition containing the 6,000 or more signatures to all the different federal agencies. I will reiterate Mr. Custodio, it's not "GREEN CARDS" that the feds will be handing out, it will

be H1 and H2 visas and you do have to apply for it and if you qualify you will be given one, but it will be not valid for 10 years or more. In your case, I believe you will be automatically disqualified and sent home him immediately for the NLRB already denied your case and its on record with the federal labor agency.

All of you are correct when you say that you have been

abused on U.S. soil, but you forgot to mention that it was foreigners abusing you on U.S. soil. We will never be a minority in our homeland.

The lawmakers you are now leaning to for support are only in due to self-interest such as the garnering of additional votes for their constituents can no longer TRUST or have confidence in them to deliver what is right for their constituents. The issue of

permanent residency in our homeland is a critical and sensitive matter best left alone to be decided by my people Mr. Custodio.

Prepare yourself and make sure you check in, but that will not be necessary for the feds already have a record on you. Good luck on your quest and may the FEDS reign on you.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
TAOTAO TANO president



NOTICE TO ALL VALUED GUESTS

Please be advised that PIC Saipan will be conducting routine maintenance to the Waterslides and Point Break Wave Machine (Flow Rider).

The current schedule of maintenance is as follows:

Waterslides: May 12 (Mon) ~ June 1 (Sun), resume operation June 2 (Mon)

Point Break Wave Machine: June 12 (Thu) ~ July 3 (Thu), resume operation July 4 (Fri).

**Schedule may change due to weather conditions and any unforeseen problems.*

The pools will remain open during the waterslide maintenance, as well as the Lazy River and Siheky Splash Pool.

Thank you very much for your understanding.
PIC Management



2008 models have arrived!

The All-New Altima
Luxury. Now available to all.

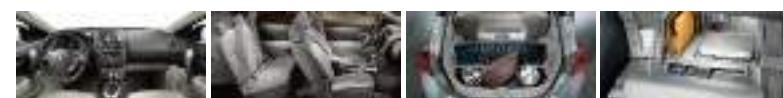
Push Button Ignition. Intelligent Key. Available Bluetooth® Hands-Free Phone System. Bringing performance and luxury to drivers everywhere.



The All-New Altima Coupe
JUST ARRIVED!

Introducing Rogue
A whole new crossover

The All-New Nissan Rogue with available intuitive All-Wheel Drive, extra-smart storage and a street-savvy 27 miles per gallon. Driving is fun again.



2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE	KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	\$15,990.00	Rio	#76292370	White	\$12,995.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	\$15,990.00	Sportage	#77354358	Jade	\$17,695.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	\$26,990.00	Sorento	#65602982	Green	\$18,995.00

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE	HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Ranger	#7PA31119	White	\$16,990.00	Fit	#7S031086	Silver	\$14,995.00
Fusion	#7R114053	White	\$19,990.00	Fit Sport	#7S031103	White	\$16,495.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	\$19,990.00	Civic DX	#7L061948	White	\$16,995.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	\$21,990.00	Ridgeline	#6H566625	Silver	\$29,990.00



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POWERED BY YOU

Dated this 17th day of April, 2008.

Over 80 Koreans visit Peace Memorial

Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, Korean Overseas Victims Foundation chair Lee Yung Taek, Consul General Lee Jung IL, Korean Association president Yoon, former Korean Association president Lee Hung Sup, and Taegu University president Lee Yong Du, Daegu University R.O.T.C students, and other guests gather for a photo after the event at the Korean Memorial Peace Shrine in Marpi yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 80 Koreans—local and visiting—celebrated their country's Independence Day with a memorial service paying tribute to their war dead in the CNMI.

Almost a hundred Koreans from the CNMI and South Korea gathered at the Korean Memorial Peace Shrine in Marpi yesterday morning for the 31st anniversary of the establishment of the shrine on Saipan, coinciding with South Korea's Independence Day celebration.

Several Korean and local dignitaries attended the hour-long ceremony led by Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, Korean Overseas Victims Foundation chair Lee Yung Taek, Consul General Lee Jung IL, Korean Association president Yoon, former Korean Association president Lee Hung Sup, and Taegu University president Lee Yong Du.

Villagomez said the Korean

monument in Marpi pays tribute to Koreans who died during the Battle of Saipan in June and July 1944.

"After 60 years later, the World War that touched the shores of our countries is not forgotten. Most importantly, the lessons learned from that event are not forgotten, either," Villagomez said.

"We pray that these losses will never again be suffered by the people of our nations and that the message of peace will prevail in the world for generations to come," he added.

Tudela also paid his respect saying that "there is no doubt that the sacrifices for their families back home will never be forgotten by everyone here today."

At least 30 members of the Korean JROTC also arrived to offer their salutes to the war dead. Dignitaries and other guests offered prayers and respect as the queued up to bow their heads at the base of the shrine yesterday afternoon.

(With reports from Jacqueline Dela Cruz)



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez delivers his remarks at the Korean Memorial Peace Shrine in Marpi.

DCCA calls for artwork

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, is again preparing for its annual CNMI Women's Exhibit schedule from June 2 to July 3, 2008.

The exhibit will be conducted at the CNMI gallery for Arts and Culture, located next to the post office in Capital Hill.

The exhibit will feature works created by all women of the CNMI. We are encouraging all women from all ages and cultures to take advantage of this special opportunity to provide experience, enhancement, promotion and recognition for all women who possess artistic talents, interests and knowledge.

The Arts Council is also looking forward this year to completing its Artist Registration Project. The project looks to provide our CNMI and the world with information regarding our island artisans, their work and contacts to include photo's of both their work and picture that will be featured in

this project.

We are calling all the community of artists to take part in this important project as the outcome of the book on all registered artist will provide them many opportunities to come.

The Arts Council is also encouraging card crafters to register their items to our exhibit. Craft Cards can be for all occasions. Father's Day is just around the corner and it is a perfect time to sell local made cards.

Also graduation season is coming up and there will be many demands for "Artificial Lei's and Mwars", please exhibit them in our Galleria.

Interested women artists are asked to submit works by Wednesday May 28, 2008, to the Arts Council Office from 8pm to 4pm. Registration forms are available and free.

For more information, please contact the Arts Council office at 322-9982/9983. Arts Coordinators, Lucille Ayuyu and Parker Yobei will be available to assist your. (PR)

FOREMOST

I gotta lotta cases? Buy 'em to Win!

Receive an entry form for every 6 (1 qt) purchase of Foremost UHT Milk & Reduced Fat Milk and enter to win sparkling new kitchen appliances!

BABY APPLIANCES

BABY GRAND PRIZE

GRAND PRIZE

Promotional Dates: April 16 through July 5, 2008

1 Purchase a 12-pack case of Foremost (1 Qt) UHT Milk or Reduced Fat Milk.

2 Fill out the entry form & drop it into the drop box.

3 Enter to win shiny new appliances!

FOREMOST

Packed with local pride.

*See drop box for rules and regulations. Prizes above are not exactly as shown.

The more cases you buy, the more chances you have to win!

JOETEN'S GIVE YOUR BUDGET A BREAK!

Bargain In Every Aisle!

Sale starts on May 17 to 22, 2008

Men's Fashion	Men's Fashion	Ladies Fashion	Ladies Fashion	Boys Fashion	Boys Fashion	Girls Fashion	Girls Fashion	Baby Products	Baby Products
Stripe Polo Shirt by Rancher \$10.59	Plaid Long Sleeve Shirts \$10.59	Sturgis Print Tee Shirts \$6.59	Denim Jeans By Wranglers \$11.59	ICE Age Print Tee Shirts \$3.59	Stripe Polo Shirt by Rancher \$9.59	Printed Blouses \$6.59	Screen Tee Shirts \$8.59	Infant Nurser with Silicone Nipple 8oz. 99¢	Power Milk Container 99¢

Best Buys!		Best Buys!		Best Buys!		Low Low Price!		Supermarket	
Best Buys! Jergens Lotion 10oz. 3 for \$7.00	Best Buys! Colgate Toothpaste 8.2oz. 2 for \$5.00	Best Buys! Colgate Toothpaste 8.2oz. 2 for \$3.49	Best Buys! WhiteRain Shampoo or Conditioner 15oz. 2 for \$3.49	Hamilton Beach 10 Speed Blender \$31.99	WF Mouthwash 1 Liter \$2.99	Bounty Basic Paper Towel 1 Roll 99¢	Folgers Instant Coffee 12oz. \$5.99		
Best Buys! WF Toothbrush 5+5 2 package \$1.50	WF Toothbrush 5+5 2 package \$1.50	Proctor Silex Iron \$15.99	Proctor Silex Sandwich Maker \$19.99	Proctor Silex 2 Slice Toaster \$12.99	Hamilton Beach 20 Cup Rice Cooker \$35.99	Whole Chicken Fryers 30 lbs./case \$34.99/cs.	US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case \$14.99/cs.		
Presto Pressure Cooker 6qt. \$42.99	Plastic Auto Mug 16oz. \$1.39	Microwave Cookware 20pc. Set \$11.99	Rubbermaid Storage Cube Set BPA Free \$32.99	Jefferson Area Rug 5x7 \$34.99	Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb. \$1.79/ea.	Springfield Coffee Creamer 35.3oz. \$2.99/ea.	Western Family All Purpose Flour 5lb. \$2.99/ea.		
	Look for these and more great savings throughout our store!								
Romaine Lettuce \$2.55/bag.	Green Cabbage 75¢/lb.	Yellow Onions 55¢/lb.	Brown Potatoes 69¢/lb.	U.S. Avocado \$1.25/ea.	ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz. 95¢/ea.	Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll \$1.99/ea.	Zee Napkins 120 ct. \$2.25/ea.		
Fuji Apples \$1.19/lb.	Bosc Pears \$1.45/lb.	Oranges 79¢/lb.	Gala Apples \$1.45/lb.	Red Seedless Grapes \$2.55/lb.	So Dri Paper Towel 1 Roll \$1.59/ea.	Bud Family Beer Can \$23.99/12pk. \$11.99/12pk.	Miller Family Beer Can \$23.99/12pk. \$11.99/12pk.		

U.S. Produce

Look for these and more great savings throughout our store!

Romaine Lettuce \$2.55/bag.	Green Cabbage 75¢/lb.	Yellow Onions 55¢/lb.	Brown Potatoes 69¢/lb.	U.S. Avocado \$1.25/ea.
Fuji Apples \$1.19/lb.	Bosc Pears \$1.45/lb.	Oranges 79¢/lb.	Gala Apples \$1.45/lb.	Red Seedless Grapes \$2.55/lb.

Visit us for more savings at our Produce section!

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SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2004 RAV-4 4DR. 4WD
Auto, Beige, Stock: U07-0077
License: ACB-455
Mileage: 41649
Price: \$15,699
REDUCED PRICE
\$14,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	\$14,999	
GM CARS								
R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	\$9,599	\$7,599
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	\$9,599	\$7,599
R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	\$6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	\$9,599	\$7,599
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	\$9,599	\$7,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	\$10,999	\$9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	\$29,999	\$28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
U08-027T	1997	T100 4X4 X/CAB	MANUAL	116578	GREEN	ABG-118	\$5,999	
U08-020R	2006	TACOMA 4X2 A/CAB	AUTO	33442	BEIGE	ADU-051	\$14,999	
U08-024R	2006	TACOMA 4X2 A/CAB	MANUAL	46950	RED	CWMAN001	\$16,099	
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	\$15,999	\$13,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	\$11,999	\$10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	\$12,499	\$11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	\$11,599	\$10,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	\$8,999	\$7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	\$8,999	\$7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	\$10,999	\$8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	\$16,799	\$15,299
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	\$7,999	\$7,099
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	\$10,899	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	\$14,599	\$12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	\$13,699	\$12,799
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		\$14,599	\$12,599
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR. 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	\$19,185	\$19,099



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Mahogany lumber	35% off
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Metal stud/track	\$4/pc
Shower room	35% off
Door(louver/screen)	35% off
Window	35% off
White plywood	\$6.00/pc
Cement board	\$4/pc
Tie wire G20/G22	\$0.4/lb
Downspout	\$8/pc
10' pvc white pipe 4"	\$12/pc
Square bar	\$4/pc
Ceiling tile 2*4'	\$3.00/pc
Formica	\$5/pc
Rope	\$2/pc
Ceramic tile	\$0.3/pc

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DPS to conduct OP/CR checkpoints on May 20 and 22

dictions, and laser activities.

May 22, 2008

The first set up will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Puerto Rico by Army Reserve Center. This operation will commence at approximately 8:30am and will terminate at approximately 9:45am.

The second set up will be on Beach Road Susupe by Minachom At-dao. This operation will commence at approximately 9am and will terminate at approximately 10:15am.

The second set up will be on Beach Road Garapan by Bank Pacific. This operation will commence at approximately 4pm and will terminate at approximately 5:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, the traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver inter-

dictions, and laser activities.

For more information, please contact Officer Glenn S. Rabago or Sgt. Jerry L. Ayuyu at 664-9084/5. (DPS)

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Thefts of electrical wirings

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on any person(s) responsible for the recent thefts of electrical wirings:

■ May 3, 2008: San Vicente residence; 75 feet of stolen electrical wiring.

■ May 5, 2008: Upper Dan Dan at Tano Group's Inc.; 100 feet of stolen electrical wiring.

■ May 13, 2008: Kagman residence; 75 feet of stolen electrical wiring.

■ May 13, 2008: Two Kagman lots; a total of 363 of stolen electrical wiring.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. (Crime Stoppers)

Tinian beaches green-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has assigned all of the sampled beaches on Tinian a green flag.

This after none of the samples collected on the locations on Tinian contained excessive concentration of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Tinian's recre-

ational beaches and storm water drainages for the week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling.

The agency analyzed the samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 10 locations on Tinian this past week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

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MIFICPA donates to CNMI Prison Fellowship program



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Board of Accountancy chair David Burger conducted the MIFICPA tax seminar held last March 1.

The Marianas Institute of Filipino Accountants and CPAs recently donated \$350 to the Sycamore Tree Project of Prison Fellowship CNMI.

MIFICPA was able to raise this fund from the tax seminar it conducted last March 2008. Half of the proceeds from the participation fee went to the social work prison ministry, while the other half was donated to Beautify CNMI!

About 130 participants attended the tax seminar held last March 1 from 8am to 12pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall. CNMI Board of Accountancy chair David Burger conducted the tax seminar.

MIFICPA said the tax seminar was quite successful, as the organization was able to help

accountants on some tax regulation changes and at the same time helped the community with its proceeds.

Organization president Irene Santiago said helping the community and educating its members are some of the goals of MIFICPA.

"We as leaders and members we feel the joy of helping. There's a big sense of satisfaction when we help people out," she said.

The Sycamore Tree Project is a faith-based program that brings victims into prisons to meet with "unrelated" offenders. The groups discuss together issues related to crime and its consequences.

Helping prisoners to see the consequences of their crimes and feel remorse for their ac-



About 130 participants attended the MIFICPA tax seminar held last March 1 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

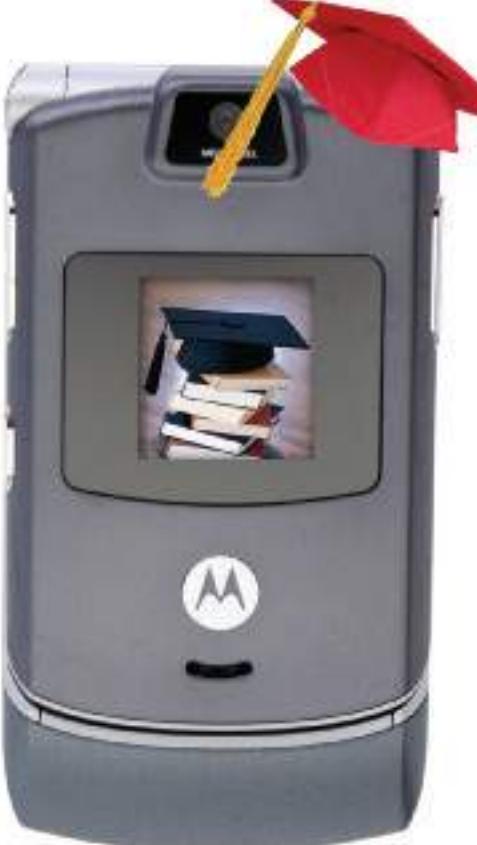
tions is what Prison Fellowship's Sycamore Tree Project is all about. One of the ways the program accomplishes this is by showing offenders the impact that crime has on victims. Such was the case for juvenile prisoners (ages 16 and 17) taking part in PF Netherlands' Sycamore Tree Project known there as "Spreken over Schuld

(SOS)," which means, "Speaking about Guilt."

Prison Fellowship International's unique victim/offender mediation programme has had a dramatic affect on participating prisoners. The Sycamore Tree Project brings victims into prisons to meet with unrelated offenders in an intensive 8-12 week course in which they dis-

cuss the consequences of crime. The results are profound for both victims and prisoners. A recent survey of more than 2,000 prisoner participants showed an improvement in their empathy toward crime victims and their recognition of the harm their individual offences have caused, as well as a decreased sense that crime is worth the cost. (*mificpa*)

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E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Lease of Document Copier/Scanner/Printer

The Northern Marianas College Bookstore is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the lease of a document copier/scanner/printer with network capability. Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., June 2nd, 2008, Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

In accordance with CNMI Public Law 15-95 and 15-118, Local Preference applications may be submitted for this procurement.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu), or call NMC Procurement Office at (670) 234-5498 extensions 2300/01/02.

All Proposers are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement; all individuals, and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/ Duane R.T. Sablan
Acting, NMC Procurement Officer

/s/ Bernie P. Sablan
NMC Bookstore Manager

GCA students' artwork at Truongs

Grades 1 and 2 students of Grace Christian Academy currently have an art exhibit at the Truongs Restaurant in Susupe.

Entitled "The Heart of Art," the exhibit began last Mother's Day, May 11, and will conclude this Sunday, May 18.

In all, 11 students of Mang Ben's Art Class are taking part in the exhibit. The art class' teacher, Benjie Ganapin, said the elementary students held the exhibit as a tribute to their mothers. He said the works of art are not for sale.

Truongs Restaurant manager, Melinda Javier, is impressed with the exhibit.

"I'm surprised that these paintings are works of grades

The 11 students of Mang Ben's Art Class pose with their parents at Grace Christian Academy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Benjie "Mang Ben" Ganapin and his students hard at work at GCA.

1 and 2 students, they are so blessed and talented. Truongs Restaurant is privileged to be part of their exhibition," she said.

Ganapin added that the parents are so happy about the potential of their children and are hoping these kinds of projects of Grace Christian Academy will continue so the skills of their children would be developed.

"We are helping our future artists and it's good that as early as now we are showing them our

support and encourage them," one parent commented.

Ganapin said the exhibit's name, "The Heart of Art," means God.

"God is the one who created us and imparted creativity in us, and it's just right to glorify Him, our Creator with that creativity," he said.

He said GCA students and their parents are already looking forward for the next class. "Congratulations to GCA, parents and students!" said Ganapin. (GCA)



UoG student to spend summer in Costa Rica

Julie Anne Duay, a University of Guam biology student working in Dr. Ross Miller's entomology lab at the UOG campus, has been awarded a Native American and Pacific Islander Research Experience summer internship by the Organization of Tropical Studies in Costa Rica.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, Duay will spend the months of June and July working at various Costa Rica biological stations, including La Selva, Las Cruces, and Palo Verde, with a scientist from the U.S.

The award covers the cost of room, board, and travel to and from Costa Rica. Students also receive funds to help cover costs of field equipment and a \$3,000 stipend.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for me," said Duay. "It will broaden my academic experience and help hone my skills as a scientist."

As part of the program, students will complete a field project, including experimental design, data gathering, and analysis and presentation of results, in collaboration with fellow students and a research mentor.

Duay is a 2004 graduate of John F. Kennedy high school and participated in UOG's Upward Bound program.

Duay will be doing most of her work at Las Cruces, near the Panamanian border, said Ross Miller, Duay's faculty mentor.

Las Cruces is a great place for a biologist. The Las Cruces Station is home to the Wilson Botanical Garden featuring beautifully diverse plantings of tropical and subtropical ornamentals, representatives of unusual plant families and rare and endangered plants from Costa Rica and elsewhere.

Miller just returned from a week in Costa Rica where a group of faculty mentors from Palau, some of the U.S. tribal colleges, the University of Hawaii, and other U.S. native American-serving colleges got acquainted with the staff, got a feel for the country and biota, and gave recommendations on how to shape the program to better serve Pacific Islanders and Native Americans.

For more information on the Native American and Pacific Islander Research Experience summer internship visit: [\(UoG\)](http://www.ots.ac.cr/index.php?option=com_content&view=320=317)

ABTC license renewals now being accepted

The Department of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is reminding all licensed business establishments that applications for ABTC license renewals are now being accepted.

Application forms may be obtained at the Department of Commerce located at the Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill Road, Pohnpei Street.

All licensed businesses in Rota and Tinian may pick up application forms from the Resident Department Head at the Departments of Commerce on Rota and Tinian.

Application forms are also available online and may be downloaded at www.commerce.gov.mp. The deadline for filing of renewal applications, including payment of fees, is on June 30, 2008.

All licensees whose renewal fees remain unpaid as of June 30, 2008, will automatically be suspended pursuant to 4 CMC Section 5528.

Licenses that remain suspended as of July 31, 2008, due to unpaid renewal fees, will automatically be revoked and the Secretary of Com-

merce shall not issue a renewal license.

If a license still remains revoked as of July 31, 2008, a new

application must be submitted for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce.

Application forms are now

available online at www.commerce.gov.mp or may also be obtained from the Alcoholic Beverage and

Tobacco Control Division anytime between 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday except weekends and legal

holidays.

For more information, please call the ABTC Division at 664-3065. (PR)

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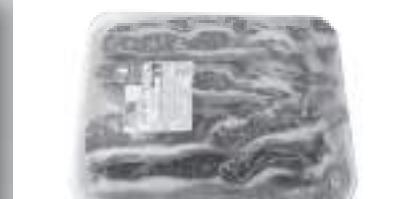
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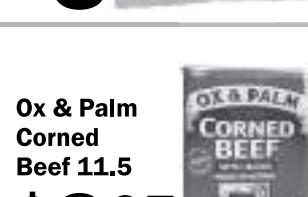
Joy
Dishwashing
Liquid Lemon
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Woolite
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Spam
Reg.
12 oz.
\$199



Ox & Palm
Corned
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Mackarel
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Community members interested in volunteering for the dog show, and/or participating in the event with their dog(s), are invited to contact PAWS at busenkell@gmail.com for more information or call the hotline at 285-PAWS. (PAWS)

Mayor Tudela inviting 20 students for Korea trip

Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela is pleased to invite students from Saipan to participate in the 16th Annual Student Cultural Exchange Program which will be held in Seoul, Korea, from June 3 to 7, 2008.

There is a limit of 20 students

for this year's student cultural exchange trip.

The following requirements must be met in order to travel to Korea:

- You must be a student and attending school between 9th and 12th grade.

- You must have a valid U.S. passport (Passport must not to expire within six months from the departure date on June 3, 2008)

- You must be a Chamorro, Refaluwasch, or a mix decent of the two, and must be knowledgeable on the local cultures, the traditions and the history of the Marianas, and willing to share your stories with your Korean host family.

- You must be in good health.
- You must have a good moral character.
- You must be active to participate in a group after school practice for local and traditional dance and songs before departure to Korea.
- If you are any of the above mentioned then, you may pick up



Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela poses with participants of last year's 15th Annual Student Cultural Exchange Program to Korea.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

April 2008 Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Tinian Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Throughout April 2008, we collected 11 water samples in Tinian to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Of the 11 water tests, 2 samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may do so.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipelines). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. **We did not find these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.**

What happened? What was done? Look below for the specific village or streets where problems occurred in April 2008:

- **Tinian:** (Marpo area, sample location ID#02012 & ID# 02024): Water samples collected at two of Tinian sample sites indicated the presence of coliform bacteria. Tests indicate that there was proper chlorine level in the water system, however, the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time in the distribution system, and the waterline was flushed to remove any stagnant water. Chlorine treatment increased for disinfection process.

For more information, please contact Heidi Yelin, CUC Laboratory Manager, at 322-5140 or via email at: cuclabman@yahoo.com, or contact Ed Quichocho, CUC Tinian Deputy Director, at 433-9261 or via email at: equichocho@cucgov.net

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

an application at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, 1st Floor Afetnas Square, Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan, in San Antonio, between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

- Deadline to complete and submit the application is Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 4pm.

For more information, please contact the Mayor's Youth Programs Coordinator, Olinka C. Chaudhry at 234-6208/234-6280, or the Office of the Mayor of Saipan at 235-7304. (PR)

Long-term solution for Prior Service benefit sought

The presidents of the Federal States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, along with the chief executives of the CNMI, Guam, and Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae held their 9th Executive Summit in Koror, Palau late April.

The Prior Service Trust Fund benefit program was one of the issues discussed at the summit, specifically the long term funding dilemma which requires an estimated \$13-million lump sum appropriation in order to capitalize the benefit program over the next 40 years.

Prior Service provides supplemental benefits to Micro-

nesians for service with the United States Navy and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands Governments between 1944 and 1968.

The chief executives agreed with the Prior Service recommendation for their respective ambassadors and the CNMI Washington Representative to work closely with the Department of the Interior and the United States Congress to find a long-term funding solution.

The conferees also signed joint letters to President Bush and DOI Secretary Kempthorne which draws their attention to the long term overdue funding problem and

more importantly to request their support for an appropriation which will capitalize the fund until around 2045 and insure the uninterrupted payment of benefits.

For the last several years Prior Service has had to rely on an annual appropriation grant, which at one time, was delayed and caused the interruption of benefits due to lack of funds.

Since the inception of the program in 1969 over \$20 million has been distributed in retirement, survivors and disability benefits to beneficiaries throughout Micronesia as well as Guam and the U.S. mainland. (PR)

Prior Service Trust Fund Beneficiaries

If your name or the name of your spouse appears below please contact the Prior Service Trust Fund. Otherwise, this does not require any action by you.

Last Name First Name	MI. Department	
Ada, Josepha	Public Works	Magofna, Antonio B.
Ada, Maria C.	NTTU	Manglona, Jose G.
Aguon, Rosa S.	Naval Admin	Manglona, Lucio M.
Arriola, Jose F.	NTTU	Maratita, Isaias S.
Arriola, Theresita B.	Property & Supply	Masga, Bienvenido M.
Ayem (Arlong), Sabino M.	NTTU	Matagolai, Vicente S.
Ayuyu, Andres A.	Public Works	Muna, Antonio C.
Babauta, Vicente M.	Naval Admin	Muna, Maria P.
Barcina, Juan S.	Public Safety	Muna, Moises
Borja, Fernando Castro	Public Works	Nekai, Thimateo
Borja, Ramon Santos	Public Works	Ngirbadul, Rosario E.
Cabrera, Luis Mendiola	Naval Admin	Omang, Dembe (Umang)
Cabrera, Sebastian Mendiola	Naval Admin	Palacios, Isabel C.
Calixterio, Margarita	TT Hqtrs-Dept. Unknown	Palacios, Jose M.
Calvo, Julian S.	District Education	Pangelinan, Herminia
Camacho, Alejandro S.	NTTU	Pangelinan, Juan N.
Camacho, Bernardino Duenas	Public Works	Rechucher, Eusebio
Camacho, Elpidio P.	TT Headquarters	Reyes, Alfonso
Camacho, Fermina Mendiola	Health Services	Reyes, Efrain M.
Camacho, Jose Roberto	Public Works	Reyes, Francisco T.
Camacho, Thomas S.	Public Works	Reyes, Raphael M.
Castro, Ignacio Lizama	TT Headquarters Supply	Reyes, Victor Tudela
Castro, Jesus C.	Public Health	Rosario, Magdalena Sablan
Castro, Jesus L.	TT Headquarters-Dept. Unk	Sablan, Francisco G.
Castro, Manuel M.	Far East Foundation	Sablan, Gregorio I.
Castro, Victoria Babauta	Far East Foundation	Sablan, Herman S.
Chong, Thomasa L.C.	Public Works	Sablan, Joaquin T.
Cruz, Ignacio Pangelinan	Public Works	Sablan, Juan T.
Cruz, Jesus	District Education	Sablan, Pedro
Cruz, Josefa C.	Far East Foundation	Sablan, Pedro O.
Cruz, Juana A.	Public Works	Sablan, Vicente S.
Dela Cruz, Ignacio	Public Works	Salas, Carlos Concepcion
Dela Cruz, Jesus R.	Public Works	Santos, Manuel St. Maria
Dela Cruz, Jose Masga	Public Works	Santos, Ronaldo M.
Dela Cruz, Jose Reyes	Public Works	Santos, Vicente Torres
Dela Cruz, Thomas C.	Hospital	Sasakura, Daniel D.
Deleon Guerrero, Dolores T.	Public Works	Sasamot, Jose
Deleon Guerrero, Manuela B.	NTTU	Somorang, Ambrocio
Delos Reyes, Jesus Borja	Supply Office	Taisacan, Jesus Satur
Delos Santos, Ronaldo M.	Administration	Tebuteb, Dionicio
Demapan, Pedro Borja	Far East Foundation	Tenorio, Manuel S.
Diaz, Antonio Camacho	Public Works	Tenorio, Rita
Diaz, Rosa	Health Services	Teregeyo, Vicente M.
Fitital, Felix R.	Education	Torres, Francisca M.
Guerrero, Paulino	Public Health	Torres, Vicente C.
Hoashi, Vicente	Naval Admin	Toves, Leonardo
Igitol, Pedro	TT Headquarters Supply	Toves, Luis
Itaman, Jose E.	Public Works	Towai, Rioky
Ito, Harumi	TT Headquarters Health Services	Tsuchiyama, Maria S.
Kaipat, Amada O.	Hospital	Villagomez, Felix
Kapileo, Simeon I.	Public Works	Villagomez, Lucia A.
Kileleman, Prepedigna P.	Education	Villagomez, Manuel S.
Litoifoi, Jose R.	TT Hqtrs Finance	Villagomez, Raphael G.
Lizama, Antonio T.	TT Hqtrs-Dept. Unknown	Villagomez, Thomas S.
Lizama, Francisco C.	Education	Wesley, Margarita C.
Lizama, Jesus B.	NTTU	

However, if you recognize any name listed above who worked for the Trust Territory Government or United States Navy at least five years before July 1, 1968, we would appreciate any contact information you may have. (PR)

Tropical Laundry & Linen Supply Co., Ltd.

Now offering

15% OFF

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from (Mon) May 19 - (Fri) May 31, 2008

HIGH QUALITY IS OUR POLICY:

1. EPA standard R.O. drinkable water using to laundry your clothes.
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and
Saturday 8:30am - 11:30am & 1:00pm - 4:00pm
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Come and visit us!

Located in Puerto Rico along Middle Road.

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OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

NOTICE OF
Community ForumYOUR COMMENTS ARE
MOST WELCOME:VR FY—2009
State Plan Goals**Goal 1.** Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.**Goal 2.** Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.**Goal 3.** Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.**Goal 4.** Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.OFFICE OF
VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATIONP.O. Box 501521
Saipan, MP 96950-1521Phone: 322-6537/8 (Saipan)
Fax: 322-6536Email: voc.rehab@saipan.comTO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMUNITYPlease be advised that the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) will be conducting statewide public forums on its **State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services for FY 2009**.The Northern Marianas community is invited and encouraged to participate in the public forums as this is an opportunity to comment on our proposed state plans. Let us know how best the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation can and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. What are some of the barriers that currently prevent persons with disabilities from getting or keeping their jobs? More importantly, what are some of the solutions to those barriers? **Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together to increase employment and promote independence among eligible individuals with disabilities?**

Your input into our proposed State Plan is much appreciated!

Community Forum on VR State Plan FY 2009

SAIPAN

WHEN:

May 19, 2008
(Monday)

WHERE:

Multi-Purpose Center
TIME:

5:00-6:30pm

TINIAN

WHEN:

May 21, 2008
(Wednesday)

WHERE:

Tinian Elementary
School Cafeteria
TIME:

5:00-6:30pm

ROTA

WHEN:

May 23, 2008 (Friday)

WHERE:

Tamara and Seven
Brothers Building
TIME:

5:00-6:30pm

Publication of this notice is paid for with federal funds made possible by a RSA Grant of the United States Department of Education. Office of the Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

The CNMI Head Start Program
is pleased to announce Open Registration
for School year 2008-2009

REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Only parents or legal guardians are authorized to register their child(ren).

- Child(ren) birth certificate.
- Head Start Program Forms 3, 4 & 5 (copies can be obtained at the Head Start Office)
- Social Security Card
- School Health Entrance Certificate and medical insurance (if any).
- Parent's/Guardian's verification of income (2 of your most current check stubs or other public assistance, such as Medicaid, WIC or Nutrition Assistance).
- Passport/Visa/Immigration Permit (for non-residents)
- Legal Guardians must provide notarized documents stipulating the guardianship of child(ren).
- Parents of children with disabilities are required to bring their child(ren) current IEP or IFSP.**

Please be advised that the Head Start Program is a Federally Funded program that has Eligibility and Selection Criteria's. Registering your child does not guarantee automatic enrollment. The program currently enrolls between the ages of 3-5 years old.

Children cannot be accepted into the program prior to their 3rd birthday.

For more information:

Please visit office at any Head Start Center near you
#1256 Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan

664-3751 or 323-7446



The team of Hapi, Gabriel and Agnes Donato consult with a teammate on one of the puzzles in last year's Inaugural Beach Road Magazine Car Rally. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Exciting prizes up for grabs
in 2nd Annual Car RallyPrizes keep piling up for the 2nd Annual *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally."We now have lots of prizes to give away," said Susan Marchitti, *Beach Road Magazine* account manager and lead coordinator for the car rally.

"We are so grateful to the businesses that have so generously lent their support to make this event even more exciting for real drivers to join in. Participants who did not win the top three slots will still go home with a good prize," she added.

Aside from cash prizes for winners, at stake are gift certificates from 360 Restaurant, the place with a view; two gift certificates for an overnight stay for two at Saipan Grand Hotel, lunch and dinner buffet also at Saipan Grand Hotel; an overnight stay for two at Palms Resort Saipan, and buffet at a Palms Resort F&B outlet; lunch for two at The Green Flash Restaurant; four gift bags from Boarderline; 60 duffle bags from Western Union; and

two Wear-A-Marconi shirts, among others.

"And the prizes keep piling up," Marchitti said.

Cash prizes will be given to the top three winners. The first prize winner will get \$250; second prize, \$200; and third, \$150, Marchitti said.

Registration is \$15 and space is limited to 60 cars. The car rally will be held on May 24. The awards party, where prizes will also be raffled, will be held at the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill in the evening of May 25. A special 10 percent discount on non-special food items will be given to car rally participants.

So hurry! Grab a copy of *Beach Road Magazine* for the entry forms, fill them out and submit to the Glimpses of Saipan office on the second floor of the Transpac Business Center along Middle Road, Gualo Rai (near Subway restaurant) during regular business hours from 8am to 5pm.The 2nd Annual *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally is sponsored by Shell Marianas, to the next level. **(PR)**

Pacific Telecom Inc., Department of Public Safety, American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Club, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Aquarius Beach Tower, and Budget Car Rental.

See posters and *Beach Road Magazine* print ads for details.

Announcements about the car rally can be heard over The KAT and Power 99; and seen on KSPN 2 News and Sportswrapers, both on KSPN 2.

The 2nd Annual *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally is a competitive motoring event in which drivers must successfully complete a given course by following a set of instructions. The starting point will be announced. Drivers will receive a new set of instructions at each checkpoint, which will guide them through the next section of the rally up to the finish.A car rally is not a speeding contest. It's a cross between a scavenger hunt and an IQ test behind the wheel that's guaranteed to take your driving skills to the next level. **(PR)**

GES kindergarten registration ongoing

The registration for kindergarten at Garapan Elementary School is still ongoing and is taking place in the main office daily between 7:30am and 9am and 1pm and 2:20pm.

Kindergarten students must be five years of age on or before the end of Aug. 31, 2008.

New student registration will begin on June 9, 2008, in the main office.

First grade students, meanwhile, must be 6 years of age on or before the end of August 2008.

Please be sure to bring copies of all your documents. GES charges a 25 cent fee per copy requested.

Transitioning 6th grade students who will be going to Hopwood Jr. High School will be receiving transition packets.

These must be completed and submitted to their 6th grade teacher by May 23, 2008. Af-

ter this date, parents will be required to register directly at Hopwood Jr. High School.

completed registration form, copy of birth certificate or passport, school entrance health certificate, copy of health insurance (government or private), Medicaid or student accident insurance accepted.

Other documents needed are map to residence (GES zoning areas: parts of Puerto Rico, upper/lower Navy Hill, Garapan, Chinatown, Northern Gualo Rai, and Northern Beach Road (From the Gualo Rai traffic light to Marianas Eye Institute north), legal guardianship documents (if applicable, must be notarized and recorded in court), official transcript, withdrawal form from previous school (for new student registration ONLY).

For more information, please call Garapan Elementary School at 237-3341 or email questions to garapan.school@gmail.com. **(GES)**

Required documents include

TASTE OF THE MARIANAS
2008

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2008

May 17, 2008 PROGRAM

6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Manta Band
7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	PCA Warrior Dancers
7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Uncle Ben's Studio/ Project Impact Dance Group
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	CPI II
9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Ezra & Fred
9:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Walden, Violy & Son

May 17, 2008: Hot Dog Eating Competition
7:30 p.m. Competition Stage

2008 Taste of the Marianas vendors:

1. Aqua Resort Club, Saipan	10. D'Elegance Café
2. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan	11. Herman's Modern Bakery
3. Hafadai Beach Hotel	12. Hula Girl
4. Hyatt Regency Saipan	13. Thai House Restaurant
5. Pacific Islands Club Saipan	14. Poon's Restaurant
6. Palms Resort Saipan	15. Ty & Tia
7. Saipan World Resort	16. Pacific Trading Company
8. Mariana Resort & Spa	17. MARPAC
9. Capricciosa & Tony Roma's	18. Northern Marianas Bartender Association

For more information, please contact
MVA Office (Saipan) at 664-3200/01, MVA Office (Tinian) at 433-9365.

"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

TOURISM MONTH ACTIVITIES

SAIPAN

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2008

Taste Of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden - Event will be held every Saturday in May at the American Memorial Park from 6:00pm to 10:00pm.

"Hafa Adai Tirow Way Fridays"

Every Friday, the community is encouraged to wear local attire. The community is encouraged to showcase our unique island culture by wearing mwar mwars or local beads.

May 31, 2008

Tourism Month "Ayuda" Charity Mountain Bike Race

The Ayuda Mountain Bike race will consist of a short course for children 8-12 years of age, short mountain bike race for beginners, and Open Division. Starting point will be at American Memorial Park to Mt. Tapochao and back.

For more information, please contact the MVA office at 664-3200/01 and ask for Ed Diaz.

Radio Trivia Program "Did you know and Fun Facts about Tourism in the CNMI

Awareness on facts about tourism in the CNMI will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 and 97.9 The KAT. Listeners will have a chance to answer tourism question and will have a chance to win prizes.

TINIAN

May 16, 2008

Youth Fam Tour

Student groups will participate on an informative island tour to the major historical and cultural sites. This gives MVA an opportunity to inform them of the importance of protecting and preserving these public sites and facilities.

May 17, 2008

Island Green Revolution

A beautification activity where youth organizations perform major clean-up of potential tourist sites. Tourist groups on island will also be invited to participate by planting ornamentals or coconut trees alongside sites.



Tim elected new chair of PIDB

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez has been elected chairman of the Board of Governors of the Pacific Islands Development Bank at the conclusion of its annual meeting held in Palau last April 28.

Others elected were Gov. Sebastian Anef of Yap as vice chairman and Minister Elbucel Sadang of Palau as secretary.

Villagomez thanked his colleagues for electing him as the new chairman and assured them that he will do his best to carry out his duty and to move PIDB forward.

The PIDB board also selected Saipan as its next meeting venue, tentatively scheduled for April 2009.

PIDB's annual meeting was held at the Palau Royal Resort and among the key agenda items in the meeting were the reviews of the bank's 2007 annual re-

port, including its 2007 audited financial statements and PIDB's 2008 budget and goals.

Bank president and CEO Aren Palik reported to the board that 2007 was a record-setting year with a 22-percent loan growth and 13 percent growth in total assets.

The bank also recorded the highest net earnings since its inception, effectively eliminating its retained deficit.

Palik also reported that the quality of its loan assets has improved substantially with a 0.89 percent delinquency and further increased its allowance for loan loss reserve. Equally important, the bank again had a clean audit with an "unqualified" opinion.

"Although we had the best year by far in 2007, we still need to do more to help our member countries and states in developing their respective

economies", Palik said.

He added, "we need to continue working on our growth related initiatives and strategies outlined in our Strategic Plan to support our funding programs and services."

In this meeting, the board also adopted three resolutions, one of which invites the Republic of the Marshall Islands to join the PIDB as a member.

The board acknowledged and welcomed the Jack Ading, Minister of Finance of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who attended the meeting as an observer. This was the first time RMI had participated in a PIDB board meeting and there was high hope that it will finally join the bank.

Palik also updated the board regarding membership capital and efforts to secure new members, particularly Mar-

shall Islands, American Samoa, and Kiribati.

Given its growth and expand-

ed role in the region, the board authorized management to review the prospect of the bank

owning its own building either through direct purchase or new construction. (PIDB)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Sen. Ilai Abraham from Kosrae, Gov. Robert Weilbacher from Kosrae, Gov. Sebastian Anef from Yap. Middle row, Newly elected Board Chairman, Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez from the CNMI, Rep. Diego Benavente from the CNMI, former Lt. Gov. Jack Yakana from Pohnpei, Minister of Finance Elbucel Sadang from Palau. Front row, Minister of Finance Jack Ading (observer) from the RMI, Speaker Judi Won Pat from Guam, PIDB president Aren Palik, Director of Administration Lourdes Perez from Guam, PIDB administrative manager Rosa D.L.S Weilbacher, and Sen. John Masiwemai (proxy for Speaker Charles Chieng from Yap).



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY 09/27 SHOULDER AND NEW GENERATOR, PHASE 2, PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-08.

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 2:00 PM, FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of providing paved shoulders for both sides of the existing 6,000 feet of runway, providing new electrical conduits and new edge light, providing new generator and fuel tank and constructing generator room, grading and earthworks, and other related works in accordance with the plans and specifications hereinafter as parts of the Contract Document.

Bidder's attention is called to the Bidder's Qualification Statement, Section LP-4 that a prospective bidder must submit it along with bid proposals. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all Bidders and may reject the bidder based on unsatisfied bidder's qualification based on its best interest.

After receipt of bids the Owner will perform evaluation of the apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder. The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. In the event that the apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder is determined unqualified or unsatisfied to the Owner based on the evaluation, the Owner will perform a secondary evaluation of the qualifications of the next apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder until a qualified lowest bidder is determined.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in accordance with Item G-100-3.2 (Contract Time) of the General Project Requirement of the Technical Specification. Liquidated damages shall be in accordance with Item G-100-3.4 (Liquidated Damages) of the General Project Requirements and shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each CD-Rom. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA AIRPORT CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders shall be required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications and bid proposal documents available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of \$50,000 or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by an U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

April 30, 2008
Date



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GENERATOR AND POWER UPGRADE DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES CPA-SA-001-08

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Construction of the Saipan International Airport Generator and Power Upgrade on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the intent of CPA to expedite complete construction of this project.

The scope of work and proposal package will be available on Monday, May 12, 2008 at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)** for each. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

No Pre-Proposal Conference will be held for this project. All questions must be submitted in writing to Mr. Lee C. Cabrera, CPA's Acting Executive Director or faxed to (670) 234-5962, no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 23, 2008.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Generator and Power Upgrade, Design/Build Services, CPA-SA-001-08." One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008**, to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The offerer shall submit with their proposal a letter of interest and Project Approach which details how the work will be accomplished by the proposer's team, given the time requirement and resources available as identified in their proposal.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for design and construction	30%
2.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
3.	Experience of the firm on similar type projects	20%
4.	Time frame for completion of the work	20%
5.	Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Award of a contract is contingent upon prior approval from FAA.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by either a proposal bond by an U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax. Proposers should also include in pricing performance and payment bonds that will be required for this project.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

Date: May 8, 2008

Business

Stocks advance after lower inflation reading

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street advanced Wednesday after a better-than-expected report on consumer prices tempered some of the market's concerns about inflation.

The Labor Department's report that consumer prices advanced 0.2 percent in April after rising 0.3 percent in March seemed to alleviate investors' worries that the recent surge in energy costs would force prices throughout the economy to

spike higher. The moderation in prices comes despite the largest jump in food prices in 18 years.

Wall Street has been concerned that higher food and energy costs are cutting into consumers' ability to spend. Any pullback is an unnerving prospect for investors because consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

Marc Pado, U.S. market strategist for Cantor Fitzgerald,

said the tame consumer prices reading, along with recent figures on productivity, indicate that businesses are swallowing some of the rising costs they face and not passing all of them to consumers.

"You have higher input costs but you're getting more out of your workers so therefore you're able to control your output costs," he said. "The economy is lean and mean and doing well even though on the demand

side it's slumping."

The Dow rose 66.20, or 0.51 percent, to 12,898.38. A late sell-off in technology stocks caused the market to pare its gains, with the blue chip index at times up

more than 150 points.

Broader stock indicators also advanced. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 5.62, or 0.40 percent, to 1,408.66. The Nasdaq composite index

rose 1.58, or 0.06 percent, to 2,496.70.

Light, sweet crude oil fell \$1.58 to settle at \$124.22 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Report: Investor to lead fight against Yahoo board

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Billionaire investor Carl Icahn reportedly has decided to lead a mutiny against Yahoo Inc.'s board in an attempt to pressure the directors into reviving negotiations to sell Yahoo to Microsoft Corp.

To turn up the heat on Yahoo's board, Icahn has lined up a slate of 10 directors to nominate as replacements, The Wall Street Journal reported on its Web site Wednesday, citing an unnamed person close to the matter.

Icahn hadn't returned phone messages from The Associated Press as of late Wednesday. His intentions should become clear soon, however, because Yahoo

has set a Thursday deadline for submitting candidates to oppose its board at the company's July 3 annual meeting.

A representative of Sunnyvale-based Yahoo declined to comment.

Yahoo's board is on the hot seat for rejecting Microsoft's initial bid of \$44.6 billion, or \$31 per share, and taking measures that finally drove away the software maker.

Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer orally offered to raise the offer to \$47.5 billion, or \$33 per share, earlier this month. He withdrew the bid May 3 after Yahoo CEO Jerry Yang, acting

on behalf of the board, held out for \$37 per share—a price that Yahoo's stock hasn't reached in more than two years.

Yahoo shares rose 58 cents to close at \$27.14 Wednesday on hopes that Icahn would spearhead a stockholder revolt. They gained another 51 cents in after-hours trading.

The Yahoo board's demands for \$37 per share infuriated many of the company's shareholders, who are skeptical about Yang's pledge to dramatically accelerate the Internet icon's revenue growth during the next two years after being stuck in financial funk since 2005.

Gas above \$3.75 a gallon; oil falls on mixed supply report

NEW YORK (AP)—Gas prices roared above \$3.75 a gallon Wednesday, while oil prices fell after an Energy Department report gave a mixed picture of the nation's petroleum reserves.

At the pump, the average national price of a gallon of regular gas rose 2.6 cents overnight to a record \$3.758 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Gas prices are 67 cents higher than a year ago, and are expected to continue rising at least until the Memorial Day weekend.

The Energy Department re-

cently forecast that prices will peak next month at a monthly average of \$3.73 a gallon. But that means prices may rise well above that level at times; many analysts expect prices to reach \$4 a gallon on a national basis in coming weeks.

Gas prices typically peak around Memorial Day, then decline through the summer. But some analysts are beginning to question whether that will happen this summer, noting that oil prices have doubled over the past year and show little sign of slowing their advance.

High fuel prices have cut demand for gasoline and oil, but that has had little impact on prices. In its weekly inventory report, the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said gasoline demand fell slightly last week.

"As the Memorial holiday approaches and with it, the unofficial start to the summer driving season, we wonder if the gasoline market in the United States has finally reached ... the point at which consumers alter their purchasing behavior based on the dollar rise in gasoline at the pump," said Stephen Schork, an analyst and trader in Villanova, Pa., in a research note.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW08-IFB-020

LIGHTING RETROFIT FOR GROUND FLOOR LEVEL REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING T-12 TO HIGH PERFORMANCE T-8 LIGHTING FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Lighting Retrofit for Ground Floor level Replacement of Existing T-12 to High Performance T-8 Lighting for the Commonwealth Health Center, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after May 9, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 28, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Commonwealth Health Center Maintenance Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site, AR questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on June 2, 2008 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW08-IFB-020". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 5, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 5, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 5, 2008, and must be received no later than June 16, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 19, 2008. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 10, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks may be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the authorized funding agency.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
Director, Energy Division

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, Procurement & Supply

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BUSINESS

Appeals court overturns verdict in Vioxx case

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A Texas appeals court on Wednesday overturned a multimillion-dollar verdict against Merck & Co. in one of the few trials it lost over its withdrawn painkiller Vioxx.

A jury in Rio Grande City, Texas, in April 2006 awarded \$32 million to the widow of 71-year-old Leonel Garza, a short-term Vioxx user who died of a heart attack in 2001. That award—\$7 million for compensatory damages and \$25 million for punitive damages—later was cut to about \$7.75 million under Texas law limiting damages.

On Wednesday, a three-judge panel of the Texas 4th Court of Appeals overturned the verdict, ruling in favor

Sony has 4Q profit, but expects decline this year

TOKYO (AP)—Sony punctuated its recovery by swinging to a profit for the January-March quarter from a loss a year ago on its way to a record performance for the fiscal year as it reduced losses from its PlayStation 3 video game business.

Strong sales of flat panel TVs and digital cameras also helped nearly triple annual profit compared with the previous financial year, the electronics and entertainment company said Wednesday.

But Sony joined Japanese automakers Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co. in forecasting lower profit for the fiscal year through March 2009, citing the strong yen's erosion on overseas earnings.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Inflation pressures ease despite food price jump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumer prices slowed in April despite the biggest jump in food costs in nearly two decades. But with oil near record levels, Americans should brace for more pain at the pump in coming months. The Labor Department reported Wednesday that consumer prices edged up 0.2 percent last month, slightly lower than expected and better than the 0.3 percent rise in March. The lower inflation reflected a flat reading for energy, which helped offset a 0.9 percent jump in food. That was the biggest one-month surge since a 1.5 percent increase in January 1990. Last month's increase was driven by widespread increases in a number of areas from bread, butter and margarine to milk and coffee. Food prices have been climbing rapidly over the past year, reflecting higher

of Merck. The opinion was signed by Justice Sandee Bryan Marion.

The judges wrote that Garza's family did not prove his brief use of Vioxx caused two blood clots that the family's attorneys argued triggered his heart attack. The judges also concluded the family did not provide sufficient evidence to rule out his long-standing heart disease as the cause of his fatal heart attack.

Garza had a prior heart attack and heart bypass surgery, smoked for nearly 30 years and died of the second heart attack after taking Vioxx for less than a month.

Merck lawyers had argued that heart attack was the end result of his 23 years of

heart disease.

"There was simply no reliable evidence Vioxx caused Mr. Garza's heart attack," Travis Sales, one of the attorneys who represented Merck during the trial, said in an interview.

David Hockema, one of the Garza family attorneys, said they had just read the opinion and had not decided on their next move. Possible next steps would be a motion for a rehearing before the same court of appeals or a petition to the Texas Supreme Court, he said.

"I think the decision is clearly wrong and sets an impossible burden for the plaintiff to show the offending instrument (Vioxx) was the sole cause of their injury," Hockema said.

Sony Corp. had been battered by a recent fall in gadget prices and the bumpy start of its PlayStation 3 game home console, which required enormous startup costs and struggled against the Wii from rival Nintendo Co.

The last time Sony had a record annual profit was a decade ago, said Chief Financial Officer Nobuyuki Oneda.

For the fiscal fourth quarter, Sony posted a profit of 29 billion yen (\$277 million), a reversal from a loss of 67.6 billion yen in the same period last year.

For the financial year through March, Sony earned a better-than-expected profit of 369.4 billion yen (\$3.5 billion), a record for the company known for its Walkman port-

able players and "Spider-Man" movies. That's nearly triple the 126 billion yen earned in the previous fiscal year.

Quarterly sales dropped 6.5 percent to 1.95 trillion yen (\$18.6 billion). Sales were solid in liquid-crystal display TVs, digital cameras and Vaio computers, the Tokyo-based manufacturer said. But sales of mobile phones, old-style picture tube TVs and PlayStation 2 machines declined.

For its quarterly operating performance, which measures how a company did in its core operations, Sony lost 4.7 billion yen (\$44.9 million) although that was still an improvement from a much larger operating loss of 113 billion yen in the year ago period.

world demand and the impact of increasing energy prices on the cost of fertilizer and transportation of products to grocery store shelves.

Accounting changes help Freddie Mac beat expectations in 1Q

Freddie Mac beat Wall Street's expectations in the first quarter, but the mortgage finance company didn't vanquish concerns about its ability to weather the housing bust.

Changes in accounting practices helped McLean, Va.-based Freddie Mac achieve better-than-expected results Wednesday. For example, Freddie adjusted how it accounts for derivatives, financial instruments used to hedge against swings in interest rates.

Under the new accounting practices, the company said it lost more than \$1.3 billion on those derivatives in the first quarter, compared with a loss of nearly \$2.3 billion in the

fourth quarter of 2007. (AP)

US foreclosure filings surge 65 percent in April

LOS ANGELES (AP)—More U.S. homeowners fell behind on mortgage payments last month, driving the number of homes facing foreclosure up 65 percent versus the same month last year and contributing to a deepening slide in home values, a research company said Tuesday. Nationwide, 243,353 homes received at least one foreclosure-related

filing in April, up 65 percent from 147,708 in the same month last year and up 4 percent since March, RealtyTrac Inc. said. Nevada, Arizona, California and Florida were among the hardest hit states, with metropolitan areas in California and Florida accounting for nine of the top 10 areas with the highest rate of foreclosure, the company said. Irvine, Calif.-based RealtyTrac monitors default notices, auction sale notices and bank re-

possessions.

Nation

Edwards gives long-awaited endorsement to Obama

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)

Democrat John Edwards endorsed former rival Barack Obama on Wednesday, a move designed to help solidify support for the party's likely presidential nominee even as Hillary Rodham Clinton refuses to give up her long-shot candidacy.

The surprise endorsement came a day after Clinton defeated Obama by more than 2-to-1 in the West Virginia primary, and it helped the Obama campaign steer much of the evening news coverage away from a painful subject. The West Virginia outcome highlighted Obama's challenge in winning over "Hillary Democrats"—white, working-class voters who also supported Edwards in significant numbers before he exited the race in late January.

He said Obama "stands with me" in a fight to cut poverty in half within 10 years, a claim Obama confirmed moments later.

Edwards also praised Clinton, saying "we are a stronger party" because of her involvement, and "we're going to have a stronger nominee in the

fall because of her work."

He said Clinton is a "woman who is made of steel. She is a leader in this country not because of her husband but because of what she has done."

Speaking after Edwards in the packed Van Andel Arena, Obama gave one of his most animated addresses in days, much of it devoted to his guest's favorite topic, fighting poverty. In America, he said, "you should never be homeless, you should never be hungry."

As president, he vowed to "lift up every American out of poverty."

Clinton campaign chairman Terry McAuliffe said in a statement, "We respect John Edwards, but as the voters of West Virginia showed last night, this thing is far from over."



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., left, is joined by former Democratic presidential hopeful, John Edwards, at a rally in Grand Rapids, Mich., Wednesday, May 14, 2008. (AP)

McCain's wife sells Sudan-related investments

WASHINGTON (AP)—Cindy McCain, whose husband has been a critic of the violence in Sudan, sold off more than \$2 million in mutual funds whose holdings include companies that do business in the African nation.

The sale on Wednesday came after The Associated Press questioned the investments in light of calls by John McCain, the likely Republican presidential nominee, for international financial sanctions against the Sudanese leadership.

McCain, who was campaigning in Ohio, said neither he nor his wife were aware of the Sudan-related holdings.

Last year, at least four presidential candidates divested themselves of similar holdings involving companies doing business in Sudan.

Last year, in a speech on energy policy to the Center for Strategic and International Studies

According to McCain's personal financial disclosure, Cindy McCain's investments include two mutual funds—American Funds Europacific Growth fund and American Funds Capital World Growth and Income fund—that are listed by the Sudan Divestment Task Force as targets for divestment.

"Those have been sold as of today," said McCain spokesman Brian Rogers. Both funds have holdings in Oil & Natural Gas Corp., an India-based company that does business in Sudan. The American Funds Capital World Growth & Income Fund also has holdings in Petrochina, a Chinese government-owned oil company with vast investments in Sudan.

On Wednesday, Rogers said: "Senator and Mrs. McCain remain committed to doing everything possible to end the genocide in Darfur."

After touring a waste-reprocessing plant near Columbus, Ohio, described the American Funds as "one of the country's largest mutual funds."

ACROSS THE NATION

Scandal-plagued attorney general of Ohio resigns

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Ohio's attorney general resigned Wednesday under threat of impeachment because of a sexual harassment investigation in his office and his extramarital affair. Attorney General Marc Dann said at a news conference that he had to resign to preserve the ability of the office to carry out the priorities he established. "It is now clear to me that the only way to protect these priorities for the office of attorney general and for the people of Ohio is to remove myself from the situation," said the 46-year-old Democrat. Dann, elected in 2006, spoke for less than three minutes and left Gov. Ted Strickland's ceremonial Statehouse room without taking questions. He admitted May 2 to an extramarital affair with an employee that he said contributed to an atmosphere leading to sexual harassment claims against a top aide.

Woman pleads guilty in Spitzer prostitution probe

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman accused of booking johns for a high-priced call girl ring pleaded guilty Wednesday to money laundering and promoting prostitution in the federal probe that brought down "Client No. 9," former Gov. Eliot Spitzer. Temeka Rachelle Lewis, who worked as a booking agent for the Emperor's Club VIP, is the first defendant to admit guilt in the case that led to the resignation of New York's crusading Democratic governor after just 14 months in office. She made a brief court appearance in a plea bargain that obligates her to turn over records, testify before a grand jury, if asked, and answer any questions investigators may have about her role in arranging dates between Emperor's Club working girls and the agency's deep-pocketed clients.

Ants swarm over Houston area, fouling electronics

DALLAS (AP)—In what sounds like a really low-budget horror film, voracious swarming ants that apparently arrived in Texas aboard a cargo ship are invading homes and yards across the Houston area, shorting out electrical boxes and messing up computers. The hairy, reddish-brown creatures are known as "crazy raspberry ants"—crazy, because they wander erratically instead of marching in regimented lines, and "raspberry" after Tom Raspberry, an exterminator who did battle against them early on. "They're itty-bitty things about the size of fleas, and they're just running everywhere," said Patsy Morphew of Pearland, who is constantly sweeping them off her patio and scooping them out of her pool by the cupful.

US lists polar bear as threatened species

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Interior Department declared the polar bear a threatened species Wednesday because of the loss of Arctic sea ice but also cautioned the decision should not be viewed as a path to address global warming.

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne cited dramatic declines in sea ice over the last three decades and projections of continued losses, meaning, he said, that the polar bear is a species likely to be in danger of extinction in the near future.

But Kempthorne said it would be "wholly inappropriate" to use the protection of the bear to reduce greenhouse gases, or to broadly address climate change.

The Endangered Species Act "is not the right tool to set U.S. climate policy," said Kempthorne, reflecting a view recently expressed by President Bush.

The department outlined a set of administrative actions and limits to how it planned to protect the bear with its new status so that it would not have wide-ranging adverse impact on economic activities from building power plants to oil and gas exploration.

"This listing will not stop global climate change or prevent any sea ice from melting," said Kempthorne. He said he had consulted with the White House on the decision, but "at no time was there ever a suggestion that this was not my decision."

Kempthorne, at a news conference, was armed with slides and charts showing the dramatic decline in sea ice over the last 30 years and projections that the melting of ice—a key habitat for the bear—would continue

and may even quicken.

He cited conclusions by department scientists that sea ice loss will likely result in two-thirds of the polar bears disappearing by mid-century. The bear population across the Arctic from Alaska to Greenland doubled from about 12,000 to 25,000 since 1960, but he noted that scientists now predict a significant population decline. Studies last year by the U.S. Geological Survey suggested 15,000 bears would be lost in coming decades with those in the western Hudson Bay area of Alaska and Canada under the greatest stress.

But when asked how the bear will be afforded greater protection, Dale Hall, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had difficulty coming up with examples.

Better management of bear habitat on shore and making sure bears aren't threatened by people including hunters, more studies on bear population trends and their feeding habits were among the areas mentioned. "I don't want to prejudge recommendations for (bear) management," said Hall whose agency administers the Endangered Species Act.

Environmentalists were already mapping out plans to file lawsuits challenging the restrictive measures outlined by Kempthorne.

"They're trying to make this a threatened listing in name only with no change in today's impacts and that's not going to fly," said Jamie Rappaport Clark of Defenders of Wildlife and a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director.

Members of Congress also were skeptical.

The Bush administration "is forcing the polar bear to sink or swim," said Rep. Edward

Markey, D-Mass., chairman of a House committee on global warming.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., called it "a lifeline for our last re-

maining polar bears" but said the bear's survival won't be assured without limits on oil development in the same Arctic waters where the bears are found.



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Asia

Rescuers at quake epicenter, digging by hand

HANWANG, China (AP)— Soldiers rushed to shore up a dam cracked by this week's powerful earthquake, and rescuers came by helicopter and ship Wednesday into the isolated epicenter but still were forced to dig for survivors with their bare hands.

Nearly 26,000 people remained buried in collapsed buildings from Monday's magnitude 7.9 earthquake, and the death toll of almost 15,000 was expected to climb as relief operations spread into the mountains of Sichuan province. The quake triggered landslides that blocked roads to hardest-hit areas.

Even as the rescue effort seemed to gather momentum—sped by clearing weather after two days of rain—caring for tens of thousands of people made homeless across the disaster zone have stretched thin the government's resources.

Homeless victims begged for aid on roadsides, and people settled in for a third night in a growing sprawl of refugee camps littered with garbage. In Hanwang, a town in one of the hardest-hit counties, survivors stood hoping for handouts from cars, jostling with each other to reach to one vehicle where a passenger passed bottled water out the window.

"I'm numb," said Zhao Xiaoli, a 25-year-old nurse working at a makeshift triage center in tire factory driveway. "The first day, hundreds of kids died when a school collapsed. The rest who came in had serious injuries. There was so little we could do for them."

Damage to the two-year-old Zipingpu Dam threatened downstream communities still



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a rescuer saves a girl in the rubble in Beichuan County, just east of the epicenter of Monday's 7.9-magnitude earthquake, southwest China's Sichuan Province Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

digging out from the quake. Some 2,000 soldiers were sent to the dam, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Four-inch cracks scarred the top of the dam, and landslides had poured down the surrounding

hills, the business news magazine Caijing said on its Web site in a report from the scene.

Although the government pronounced the dam safe late Tuesday after an inspection, Caijing said its waters were being

emptied to relieve pressure. The Ministry of Water Resources issued a notice to check reservoirs nationwide, while the economic planning agency said nearly 400 dams, most of them small, were damaged by the quake.

Red Cross: Up to 128,000 may have died in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)— The Red Cross estimated Wednesday that the cyclone death toll in Myanmar could be as high as 128,000—a much higher figure than the government tally. The U.N. warned a second wave of deaths will follow unless the military regime lets in more aid quickly.

The grim forecast came as

heavy rains drenched the devastated Irrawaddy River delta, disrupting aid operations already struggling to reach up to 2.5 million people in urgent need of food, water and shelter.

"Another couple of days exposed to those conditions can only lead to worsening health conditions and compound the stress people are living in," said

Shantha Bloemen, a spokeswoman for UNICEF. A tropical depression in the Bay of Bengal added new worries, but late in the day forecasters said it was weakening and unlikely to grow into a cyclone. Myanmar's government issued a revised casualty toll Wednesday night, saying 38,491 were known dead and 27,838 were missing.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, however, said its estimate put the number of dead between 68,833 and 127,990. The Geneva-based body said the range came from a compilation based on other estimates from 22 different organizations, including the Myanmar Red Cross Society, and on media reports.

China: Troops rush to plug dam cracks

DUJIANGYAN, China (AP)—Hundreds of dams around the epicenter of China's earthquake have been damaged and Chinese troops scrambled Wednesday to plug cracks and open sluices to prevent flooding of already devastated communities.

The National Development Reform Commission, China's top economic planning body, said the earthquake had damaged 391 dams. It said two of the dams were large ones, 28 were medium-sized and the rest were small ones.

The official Xinhua News Agency said 2,000 troops were sent to work on the Zipingpu dam, which lies on about 6 miles up the Min river from the badly damaged city of Dujiangyan in Sichuan province.

Xinhua quoted the Ministry of Water Resources Wednesday as urging protection of the Zipingpu reservoir, saying Dujiangyan would be "swamped" if major problems emerged at the dam.

The ministry had set up an emergency command center at the dam "to discharge the reservoir's rising waters and guarantee that the damage posed no threat to Dujiangyan and the neighboring Chengdu Plain," Xinhua said.

By late Wednesday, the government pronounced the dam safe.

"Experts from the Ministry of Water Resources today had a complete and concrete examination on the key sections of the dam," CCTV said, reading a statement also posted on the Sichuan government Web site. "After that, the expert group said the structure was stable and safe."

However, the sudden release of water could also damage the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, a World Heritage Site, which is just a few miles downstream from Zipingpu, said Aviva Imhoff, campaign director for the International Rivers Network, an activist group that seeks to protect rivers.

China media unusually aggressive in covering quake

BEIJING (AP)—Bodies buried under mounds of rubble, bloodied survivors pulled from debris, weeping family members begging for information—the stark images are blanketing Chinese newspapers and television broadcasts.

The country's media are mounting an aggressive effort to cover the worst earthquake in decades, making a major departure from China's past tendency to conceal crises.

Scenes of destruction dominated the airwaves as state China Central Television switched to 24-hour coverage after the 7.9-magnitude quake hit Monday in Sichuan province. Journalists dispatched across the stricken area fed a stream of fresh reports on rescue operations.

The official English-language China Daily devoted its front page to pictures of orange-suited rescue workers pulling out survivors and stories displayed against a black background in a sign of mourning. Other newspapers devoted half to three-quarters of their pages to quake coverage.

Officials have not fully unshackled the often tightly controlled media. Reports are emphasizing the government's rapid, full-scale response over grieving and sometimes angry survivors. And the fact that the earthquake was a natural—rather than manmade—disaster may have played a role in journalists being set loose.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Brief curfew in India city day after bombs kill 80

JAIPUR, India (AP)—The seven bombs that tore through this historic city ripped apart Sumana Khan's life, killing her mother and two aunts and leaving the 4-year-old girl with a broken arm, a fractured leg and shrapnel embedded in her back. Lying in a crowded hospital Wednesday, Khan and the nearly 200 other wounded were in some ways among the lucky—they survived. Eighty others became the latest deaths in a seemingly endless series of bombings that have terrorized Indian cities in recent years. Most attacks, like Tuesday's in Jaipur, have hit soft targets—crowded markets, packed temples, con-

gested trains, mosques filled with worshippers. And with authorities repeatedly blaming Islamic militants for the bombings, each has brought fears of fresh violence between India's Hindu majority and its sizable Muslim minority.

Pakistan swaps prisoners with Taliban militants

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani authorities and Taliban militants exchanged dozens of prisoners Wednesday, officials said in the latest breakthrough in a peace process that is stirring growing alarm in the West. Pakistan army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said tribal elders mediating in the talks Wednesday secured

the release of seven security personnel, including two army officers. In return, Abbas said authorities released 30 people detained in Waziristan, a key militant stronghold overlooking the Afghan border. Abbas described the 30 only as "tribal people" and gave no further details. However, three Pakistani intelligence officials said they were suspected militants.

Report: Counterterrorism in RP will fail without peace talks with Muslim rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The U.S.-backed counterterrorism campaign in the Philippines will not succeed if the government fails to pursue

peace talks with Muslim separatist rebels while isolating al-Qaida-linked militants, an international think tank said Wednesday. The Brussels-based International Crisis Group recommended that the stalled peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front resume quickly to prevent renewed hostilities and that a joint cease-fire mechanism be revived that has helped the military hunt down members of the extremist Abu Sayyaf group and its Indonesia-based ally, Jemaah Islamiyah. It said the U.S. and Philippine strategy of defeating terrorism through counterinsurgency methods in which separatist rebels are lumped together with and treated like terrorists "risks encouraging dissident alliances, instead of dissolving them."

World

Anti-Hezbollah decisions reversed in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—The U.S.-backed Cabinet on Wednesday reversed measures against the militant Hezbollah movement that set off Lebanon's worst violence since the 1975-90 civil war.

The decision was a major victory for the Iranian-allied Hezbollah and the latest sign that the

Shiite militant group appeared to have gained the upper hand in the country's political power struggle after its fighters routed supporters of the government.

Seconds after the announcement, celebratory gunfire erupted south of Beirut, a Hezbollah stronghold, but there was no immediate response from the

movement's leaders to the government's decision.

Clashes between government supporters and opponents broke out last week after the Cabinet challenged Hezbollah with decisions to sack the airport security chief for alleged ties to the group and to declare the militants' private telephone network illegal.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said that amounted to a declaration of war and sent his armed fighters to the streets for the first time since the civil war ended, demanding the government rescind its orders.

Fierce street battles, many of them along sectarian lines, erupted and Hezbollah and its

Shiite allies seized much of Muslim west Beirut by force. At least 54 people were killed.

Information Minister Ghazi Aridi said the government made a "courageous" decision to revoke the measures "in view of the higher national interest."

Aridi said the government hoped the decision would "pave

the way for a new stage" in which the country would "manage to put sectarian strife behind us and concentrate on Lebanese national unity."

He said the government hoped for a settlement in the crisis with the Hezbollah-led opposition that has paralyzed Lebanon for 18 months.

WORLD BRIEFS

Car bomb blamed on Basque militants kills policeman in Spain

LEGUTIANO, Spain (AP)—Suspected Basque separatists bombed a village police barracks housing officers and their families on Wednesday, killing one person and wounding four. Spain's government described it as an attempted massacre. In the first fatal attack blamed on the militant separatist group ETA in more than two months, the pre-dawn car bombing in the Basque village of Legutiano in northern Spain blew off part of the building's roof, raining down debris and trapping people inside. ETA often phones in warnings before attacks, but there was no alert this time. The assailants used a large amount of explosives at the building with 29 people inside, including five children, some of them babies, Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said.

Chavez again to seek hostage release

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez said Wednesday he will try to re-establish contacts with Colombian rebels to try to win freedom for more hostages held by the guerrillas. Chavez said he spoken by telephone with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and offered to "try to make contact" with the rebels. Sarkozy's campaign for the freedom of French-Colombian hostage Ingrid Betancourt so far has been unsuccessful. "I'm going to try to do whatever possible to free not only Ingrid Betancourt, but all the people who are in the hands of the FARC," Chavez said during a meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates. Betancourt was kidnapped while campaigning for Colombia's presidency six years ago.

S. African mobs attack

Zimbabweans, other outsiders

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Mob violence against Zimbabweans and other foreigners this week has killed at least two people and injured about 60 in an impoverished Johannesburg neighborhood, authorities said Wednesday. The nightly attacks first began Sunday night and officials appealed for an end to the violence. On Wednesday, African National Congress leaders including Winnie Madikizela-Mandela visited Alexandra, the crowded township where the attacks occurred, to urge more compassion for foreigners. "The people who did this are criminals," Madikizela-Mandela said, promising victims that South Africa's government was not trying to chase them away.

Gaza rocket strikes Israeli city, 14 wounded

ASHKELON, Israel (AP)—A rocket fired from Gaza exploded in a shopping center in this southern Israeli city Wednesday, wounding at least 14 people, as President Bush wrapped up talks in Jerusalem with Israel's prime minister.

The attack raised the chances that Israel will send large numbers of ground forces into the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip—something the army chief has reportedly decided he wants to do.

The rocket ripped through the roof of a mall in Ashkelon, causing a large chunk of the ceiling to collapse in a huge pile of rubble and twisted metal. Four windows were blown out of the side of the building.

Hours after the attack, Israeli aircraft fired twice at a group of Hamas militants in Gaza City, killing two and wounding five, Hamas officials and witnesses said. The airstrikes hit the Shajaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City, a militant stronghold near the Israeli border.

The Israeli military said its forces attacked armed Palestinians.

After his talks with Bush, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel will take the "necessary steps" to stop violence from Gaza and called the Ashkelon attack "intolerable and unacceptable."

"The government of Israel is committed to stop it," said at a world conference marking Israel's 60th anniversary.

ALPINE THRILL

Yves Rossy, known as the 'Fusion Man' flies with a jet-powered single wing over the Alps in Bex, Switzerland, Wednesday, May 14, 2008. Rossy demonstrated his flight for the first time in front of international press and was released from a plane at an altitude of 8,000 feet after completing a circuit of five minutes over the Alps.

AP

Top UN official warns of increasing Darfur violence

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. peacekeeping chief warned Wednesday of an alarming increase in violence in Darfur that has spread to the Sudanese capital and could escalate further.

Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping Jean-Marie Guehenno urged all actors—the disparate rebel groups and feuding Sudanese and Chadian governments—to "move away from the brink of going into another cycle of violence" and start negotiations to end the Darfur conflict.

In a briefing to the U.N. Security Council, Guehenno said the surprise rebel attack on Khartoum last weekend, which

took place "during an alarming increase of violence in Darfur itself," has implications for the operations of the joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force.

The attack by rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement, based hundreds of miles to the west in Darfur, also has implications for the efforts to revitalize political negotiations on Darfur, Chad-Sudan relations, and Sudanese national politics, he said.

"This great deterioration of security ... (is) a major challenge for all of us," Guehenno told reporters afterwards. "Our great concern is that it doesn't lead to further escalation."

Guehenno told the council that the U.N.-AU force has received unconfirmed reports that another Darfur rebel group, SLA-Unity, "is gathering forces with over 40 vehicles near Khor Abeche to attack El Fasher," the capital of North Darfur and headquarters for UNAMID.

"In addition, there have been reports of JEM and Chadian armed elements crossing the border and assembling in West Darfur," he said.

Guehenno said he's urging the peacekeepers to be on high alert.

"Unfortunately there is no place in Darfur that can claim to be safe from possible violence," he said.

Britain's Brown unveils new policies, ponders TV offer

LONDON (AP)—Beleaguered Prime Minister Gordon Brown won a rare cheer from his own ranks after unveiling a raft of new policies Wednesday, part of move to reinvigorate his tenure that could also include appearing on a reality TV show.

In a speech to Parliament previewing his legislative program for next year, Brown outlined plans for greater customer protection when banks fail, an increased

number of apprenticeships in Britain, and an offer of better working rights for temporary workers. He also promised sweeping reforms of public services.

"Building a more prosperous Britain and a fairer Britain is the purpose of the draft legislative program published today for debate in this House and the country," Brown said.

The speech came one day after Treasury chief Alistair Dar-

ling pledged new help for low- and middle-income workers, making clear Brown's intent to build political momentum.

The taciturn Scot led his party to their worst municipal election

defeats in 40 years earlier this month and has seen his reputation for economic competence crumble over the credit crunch and bungled tax changes.

With a possible special election defeat looming next week,

He expressed concern that the attack on Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman over the weekend took both peacekeepers and the government by surprise.

"The incident underscores the serious shortfalls in the mission's resources, especially aerial reconnaissance capabilities," he said.

The U.N.-AU force took over peacekeeping duties in Darfur in January from a beleaguered AU force. It only has about 7,500 troops and fewer than 2,000 police on the ground, out of a total of 26,000 that have been authorized.

Guehenno laid out the U.N. plan to get 80 percent of the force into Darfur by the end of the year.

and tough parliamentary battles over terror laws, abortion and stem cell research pending, one governing Labour lawmaker has suggested Brown is likely to be soon deposed.

Opposition Conservative party leader David Cameron dismissed Brown's planned new laws after his speech Wednesday. Brown has "run out of road, run out of money, run out of ideas," he said.

Off the Wall

Harried family forgets toddler in Vancouver airport

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—An immigrant family left a 23-month-old boy in the Vancouver airport and learned he was missing only when contacted during the next leg of the trip.

Jun Parreno, the boy's father, told *The Vancouver Sun* the mix-up occurred Monday as he, his wife and two grandparents of the child, J.M., were scrambling between their arrival in Canada and a connecting flight to Winnipeg on Air Canada.

Running late after having to

unpack and repack all their luggage, "we had 10 minutes before boarding," said Parreno, who was emigrating with his family from the Philippines. "We were running for the gate."

He said he thought his son was with the three other adults, who were running to the gate ahead of him, and they thought the little boy was with him.

Instead, in a scenario similar to the movie "Home Alone," the toddler was wandering alone between a security checkpoint and the flight

gates, said Angela Mah, an Air Canada representative.

"We were called by (security) who told us one of the security people had a toddler in tow," Mah said. "He doesn't speak English, so we found a Tagalog-speaking agent who has been looking after him."

There was no boarding pass for the youngster because he did not have a separately assigned seat, so there was no indication in the airline's computer system that someone had missed a flight, nor had there been any panicked calls

from anyone on a flight missing a child, Mah said.

That's because the family was scattered in different parts of the plane to Winnipeg and still didn't know the

child had been left.

Air Canada staff began checking flights that had left, and "we eventually determined who his parents might be ... and the flight crew talked to them,"

Mah said. "They didn't realize until then that the baby had been left behind."

"We're not aware of this ever happening on an Air Canada flight before."

NYC cabbie is fined \$1,000 for foul-mouthed tirade

NEW YORK (AP)—The days of the cursing cabbie may be over. A New York City cab driver has been fined \$1,000 for launching a foul-mouthed tirade at another cabbie.

The confrontation occurred Oct. 8, 2007, on the West Side of Manhattan when neither driver had a passenger.

Driver Malik Rizwan honked at fellow cabbie Zbigniew Sobczak after Sobczak cut him off, prompting Sobczak to jump out of his cab and use a vulgarity repeatedly.

Rizwan called the police and accused Sobczak of assault.

A city administrative law

judge found Sobczak guilty of verbal harassment, not assault, and recommended a \$350 fine.

But Taxi and Limousine Commission Chairman Matthew Daus, in a ruling last Friday, increased the penalty to \$1,000 and a 30-day suspension.

There was a time when cab drivers were given more leeway with language.

A 1982 legal decision in a case called TLC vs. Baudin found that a "driver's use of profanity during a fight with a pedestrian was not misconduct given cognizance to the realities of life in New York City."

But Daus, in a letter to Sobczak, said, "To the extent that decisions issued before my tenure, such as TLC vs. Baudin, may be read to overrule the penalty of license revocation for verbal harassment or abuse, I would override those decisions."

"The city has changed over the years," Daus said in an interview Wednesday. "It's become more civil. ... The days when drivers can curse at each other are over in my opinion."

Sobczak's lawyer, Cynthia Fischer, told the New York Post that Daus' decision was unduly harsh.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Texas cops: Substitute teacher came to class drunk

RICHARDSON, Texas (AP)—A substitute teacher suspected of being drunk in a suburban Dallas middle school class was too intoxicated to complete a sobriety test and was arrested, authorities said. Thomas Brownlee, 56, was in a classroom Tuesday with students and another staff member for about 20 minutes, Richardson school district spokesman Tim Clark said. Another teacher suspected Brownlee was drunk and told a police officer at Parkhill Junior High. A Dallas police report states that Brownlee "had slurred speech, breath smelling of an alcoholic beverage and bloodshot eyes." The officer stopped issuing a sobriety test out of concern for Brownlee's safety, according to the report. Brownlee was charged with public intoxication. A telephone listing for Brownlee was disconnected. Clark said students were never alone with Brownlee, and that the district had used him as a substitute teacher before without problems.

911 operator fired for cursing after report

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A Nashville 911 operator has been fired after he was recorded saying that he didn't "give a s---" about what happened to a woman who had just called to report her ex-boyfriend was threatening her. Emergency Communications Center spokeswoman Amanda Sluss said Wednesday that Frank Roth was in training during the February incident and was fired a month later. Roth made the comments after promising police would arrive soon for a woman who called saying her ex-boyfriend held her at knifepoint and later was threatening her. After hanging up with her but while still being recorded, he said, "I really don't give a s--- what happens to you." Nashville TV station WTVF first reported the story after one of its reporters obtained the 911 recording.

Mich. city spends \$5.21 to mail 51-cent tax bill

BRIGHTON, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan doctor is getting a laugh out of a 51-cent property tax bill. It isn't just that Phil Kazanji's bill is so low. It's that it cost the city of Brighton \$5.21 to send it to him by certified mail. Kazanji says he

first thought the amount was a mistake. Now he calls the whole thing "the most ridiculous thing a government agency would do." City finance director Dave Gajda says Kazanji paid \$158 on a bill for \$158.48. The city penalized him 3 cents and sent him the new tab. Gajda says Brighton doesn't have the authority to waive a portion of taxes. Kazanji says he'll write out a check for 51 cents and drop it off.

Police thwart scheme to steal light poles

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—Police say a dimwitted scheme to steal light poles from a village storage yard has resulted in two arrests on Long Island. Nassau County Police Lt. Ray Cote said Wednesday that neighbors noticed two men carving up the aluminum poles with a cordless power tool and stashing them in a van under the cover of darkness. He says plainclothes officers arrived and caught the thieves in the act. Cote says the government pays about \$1,000 for a light pole—and thieves can get about \$150 apiece by selling them for scrap metal. He says there are growing efforts to crack down on such metal thefts. Police say John Baumann and Stephen Freitas—both Mineola residents—are charged with fourth-degree grand larceny. The names of their attorneys could not immediately be determined.

Woman accused of faking cancer to avoid work

ARLINGTON, Wash. (AP)—A former Washington state social worker has been accused of faking brain cancer to avoid work. Theft charges were filed Tuesday against Sandra Dee Martinez, 40, formerly of Mountlake Terrace, who was employed by the Department of Social and Health Services in Arlington. According to investigators, Martinez presented fake letters that appeared to be from doctors saying she had malignant brain tumors. Prosecutors wrote that she received \$21,000 worth of paid leave and took advantage of sick days donated by co-workers last year. Prosecutors wrote that Martinez came under scrutiny after using a neighbor's computer and leaving one of the letters on the printer. Arlington Police Chief John Gray says Martinez has moved to another state and won't speak with investigators.



This photo released Wednesday, May 14, 2008, by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency shows one of the more than two dozen giant beetles seized from a package after workers at a Mohnton, Pa., postal facility heard the insects making scratching noises.

Giant beetles seized at Pennsylvania post office

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—

Customs agents seized more than two dozen giant beetles—some the size of a child's hand—from an overseas package after postal workers heard the insects making scratching noises.

The large bugs arrived last week from Taiwan at a post office in Mohnton, about 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia, in a box whose contents were labeled as toys, gifts and jellies,

officials said Wednesday.

But the postmaster suspected the package contained live organisms and notified authorities, according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. The package was sent to Philadelphia, where it was X-rayed and then opened.

"The specimens were some of the largest of their kind, and some of the largest I've ever seen, averaging five to six inches in diameter," John Plummer,

an agency agriculture specialist, said in a statement Wednesday. "They are highly destructive insect pests that can cause extensive damage to fruit and vegetable crops, trees, shrubs and turf grasses."

In all, authorities found 26 Hercules, rhinoceros and Goliath beetles. It is illegal to ship live beetles into the United States without a permit from the Department of Agriculture.

Seven of the beetles were in containers labeled by gender, which means they could have been intended for breeding, customs agency spokesman Steve Sapp said Wednesday.

Jennifer Sharpe sold 17,328 boxes of the group's signature cookies this year by setting up shop on a street corner, shattering her troop's old mark and probably setting a national record.

Michelle Tompkins, spokeswoman for the New York-based national organization, called the figure "amazing" but said there's no national record on the books.

"We're thrilled for the girls who take it to such a great level, but so far, we don't track it at the national level," she said.

Sharpe sold cookies every

day on a street corner with help from her mother and troop leader, Pam Sharpe.

"We were always there; we never closed," Pam Sharpe said. "At one point, Jenny got really sick and we did shut down early, and we heard about it the next day."

Jennifer Sharpe's Troop 813 raised about \$21,000 in cookie sales, paying for its 10-day trip to Europe this winter. Troops get only part of the proceeds from their members' sales.

Michigan Girl Scout sells 17,328 boxes of cookies

DETROIT (AP)—A Girl Scout sold 17,328 boxes of the group's signature cookies this year by setting up shop on a street corner, shattering her troop's old mark and probably setting a national record.

Jennifer Sharpe, a 15-year-old from Dearborn, plans to travel to Europe with her troop with the proceeds from herfeat.

"It's always been one of those goals I wanted to accomplish," Sharpe said Wednesday.

The two bakeries that make

Science & Technology



A look at how WiMax works and some of the uncertainties surrounding the technology.

Flying saucers, tiny helicopters compete in British war game

LONDON (AP)—Emotion-detecting robot cars will face off against eavesdropping flying saucers in the English countryside when scientists, academics and schoolchildren compete later this year to design the next generation of military equipment.

The British Ministry of Defense's first ever "Grand Challenge" intends to encourage participants to turn their ideas into prototypes for machines the army can use in urban environments.

The six finalists, who each received \$600,000 to build such contraptions as a disc-shaped remote-controlled flying robots fitted with heat and motion sensors, were in London last week to display their models.

From Swarm Systems Ltd. comes a set of tiny helicopters that fly in formation into a village and record images and audio tracks to beam back to headquarters. And British aeronautical company BAE Systems teamed up with the University of Manchester to build a self-propelled, remote-controlled camera.

The Silicon Valley Group PLC, a small research company in southeast Britain, teamed with the Bruton School for Girls in Somerset to build an unmanned buggy that can analyze gunmen's movements to determine whether they are angry or nervous.

ComScore puts Google sites at No. 1 for first time

NEW YORK (AP)—Google has surpassed Yahoo to become the most popular Web site in the United States, according to comScore Inc.'s rankings by the number of unique monthly visitors.

Google Inc. has long been the Internet's leader in search, but its audience has trailed Yahoo Inc.'s when counting other services such as e-mail and photo sharing.

April's numbers, which Internet tracking firm comScore plans to formally release Thursday, show Google on top for the first time.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Google starts to blur faces in Street View photos

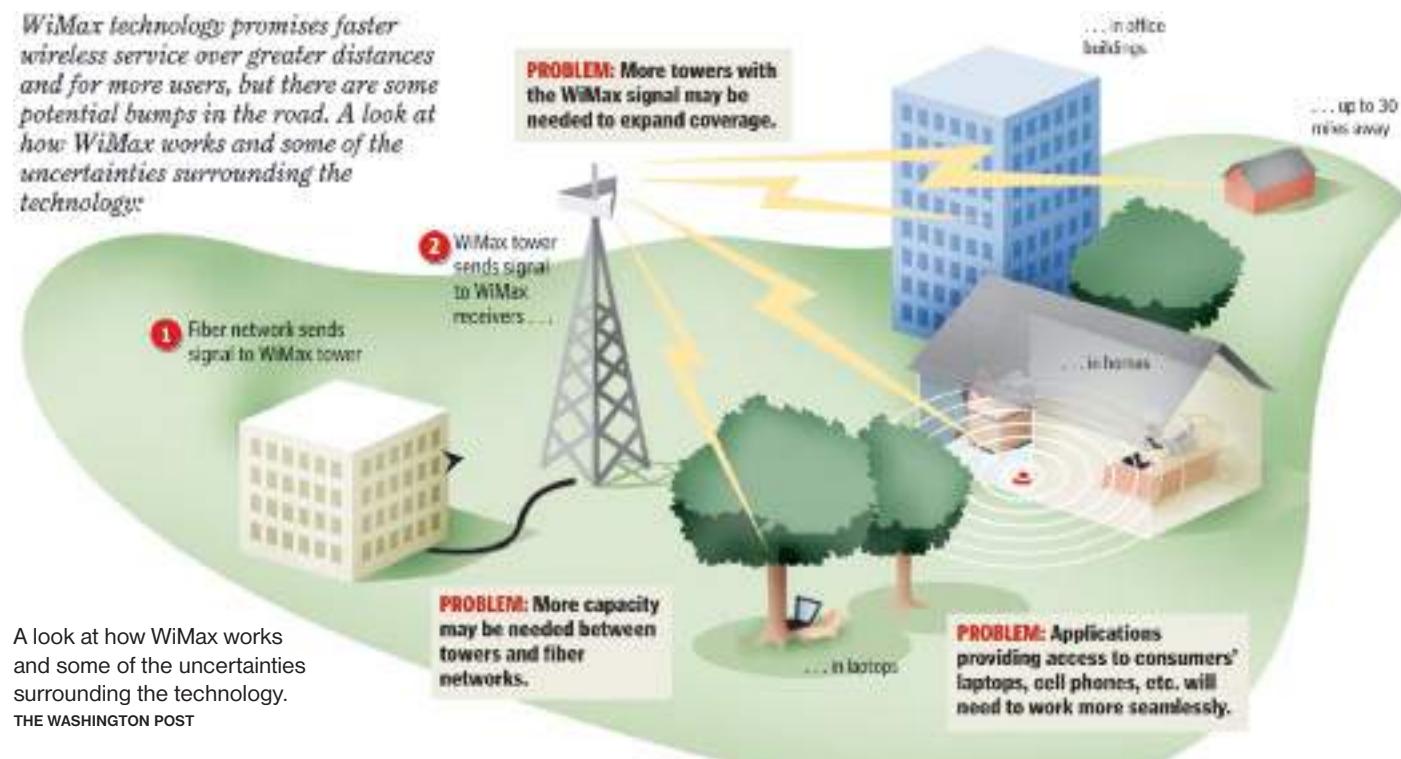
BOSTON (AP)—After privacy complaints, Google Inc. is beginning to automatically blur faces of people captured in the street photos taken for its Internet map program. Rolling it out will take several months, however. Although Google's Street View service was not the first to augment online maps with photos, the detail and breadth of images on the site surprised and unsettled many users when it launched last year.

Some privacy advocates, including the influential Electronic Frontier Foundation, suggested that Google blur the images of people. That move, the critics pointed out, would not inhibit Street View's goal of helping people become familiar with the look and feel of a location before they travel there.

Car navigator remotely manages Web-enabled home

TOKYO (AP)—Drivers in Japan can check on their pets, turn lights and air conditioning on and off and lock their front doors—all from inside their cars—with a new navigation system from

WiMax technology promises faster wireless service over greater distances and for more users, but there are some potential bumps in the road. A look at how WiMax works and some of the uncertainties surrounding the technology:



A look at how WiMax works and some of the uncertainties surrounding the technology.

THE WASHINGTON POST

By CECILIA KANG and KIM HART

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WASHINGTON—If the \$12 billion venture formed by Sprint Nextel and Clearwire this week works out, your cellphone may turn into a far more powerful, versatile and perhaps costlier mobile device.

The new company, called Clearwire, wants its customers to be able to use mobile phones and laptops nearly anywhere in the country to watch movies while waiting for the bus, turn on "Dancing with the Stars" while waiting for the soccer game, surf the Web and hold video conferences on laptops while riding along the Interstate.

But don't cancel that home Internet service over cable or DSL just yet. Although the new wireless connection, called WiMax, should be much faster than what's available on today's cellphones, it won't be as fast or as reliable as the pipes that bring cable television, Internet and phone service into houses from the street. And though it is being tested now, expanded service is about two years away.

The companies aren't saying how much the service will cost. A few analysts estimate it at \$40 to \$60 a month. At first, at least, it would most likely be an extra rather than a substitute for the monthly phone, Internet and paid television services that cost many customers \$150 to \$200 a month now.

Craig Mathias, an analyst at Farpoint Group, said the technology will be picked up first

by business users who want to be able to access their office network from remote locations and send large e-mails over cellphones on the road.

Sprint sees WiMax as an opportunity to set out on a path toward recovery after a subscriber exodus and since its troubled merger with Nextel Communications in 2005.

Consumer advocates hope WiMax will help simplify vari-

ous telecommunications and television subscription plans.

Eventually, broadband wireless should allow consumers to cancel other subscription-based Internet and phone services, Chris Murray, senior counsel of Consumers Union said. Free Internet phone services like eBay's Skype along with Web-based video should be used over the network, he said.

Clearwire, Sprint Nextel set course for WiMax

We, the family of the late
tVinae Teofilia "Nena"
Sablan Deleon Guerrero

Cordially invite our relatives and friends
to join us in prayers as we commemorate
the First Death Anniversary of our
dearly beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be celebrated beginning
Monday, May 12th thru Tuesday, May
20th at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church
in Garapan. Nightly Rosary will be
prayed at 7:30 p.m. at the residence of
Angie C. Sablan in Gualo Rai.

On the last day, Tuesday,
May 20th, rosary will be
prayed 6:00 p.m. at
Angie's residence
followed by dinner.

Your presence and prayers
will be greatly appreciated.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

GINEN I FAMILIA

Island Snapshots



POWERHOUSE

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Saipan-Power Plant located in Lower Base. CUC's new executive director Antonio Muna last week promised that load shedding will be a thing of the past beginning next month.



UP, UP, AND AWAY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A gasoline attendant refills a customer's car at the Mobil Oil gas station in Garapan Monday.



OPENING SOON

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

GCG company staff work on cleaning and repainting the façade of the seven-stadium Hollywood Theater-Saipan Megaplex Wednesday afternoon. The movie house will resume its operations on May 23 after it closed down on April 18, 2008.



HUD ON SAIPAN

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office director Gordon Furutani speaks during the Saipan Rotary Club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's Restaurant.



LIB DAY PREPS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Construction staff are busy at work building vendor booths in preparation for the CNMI's largest community event, the upcoming Liberation Day Festival at the Garapan Fishing Base early this week.



ROTA CHARTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Development Inc. officials, led by president Yoichi Matsumura, pose on the aircraft stairs of the Boeing 737 aircraft that flew in the Inaugural Rota Charter Flight late last month.



MANIBUSAN REAPPOINTED

Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Retired Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan meets the Secretary of the Army Pete Geren at Fort Benning, Georgia last April. The Secretary of the Army has reappointed Manibusan to serve as his advisor on Army policies affecting the Northern Marianas. In his reappointment of Manibusan, the Secretary told Mr. Manibusan that "your service has been exceptional and your continued service would greatly benefit our soldiers, families and the communities supporting the Army." Manibusan has been the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army since 2002.

BIRTHDAY BOY

Happy birthday Joseph "J-Boy" Muna. Your family wishes you all the happiness on your special day and many more birthdays to come. Greetings from Benavente-Muna family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Inaugural Rota Charter Flight takes off from the Rota International Airport.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Passengers of the Inaugural Rota Charter Flight line up for departure.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Detroit Symphony hopes robot conductor will fire up students

DETROIT (AP)—Classical music enthusiasts long have sought to drum up support for the musical genre among young people, and now they have a secret weapon: the 4-foot-3, child-like robot ASIMO.

On Wednesday, the day after the Honda robot conducted the Detroit Symphony, ASIMO warmed up a crowd of 250 schoolchildren who came to the concert hall to watch a master class with cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

ASIMO—which stands for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility—ran, danced and kicked a soccer ball to the delight of the students.

“It was phenomenal. I had no idea of the level people were developing robots,” said Sam Pernick, a 16-year-old cellist from the Detroit suburb Huntington Woods.

Eric Hwu, 14, a fellow musician from Bloomfield Hills, said he thinks a robot like ASIMO could potentially play a musical instrument, but in the meantime, it could get kids excited about technology.

“A lot of kids I know think robots are cool and would be interesting to work on,” he said.

Honda Motor Co., which has been developing humanoid robots since the mid-1980s, brought ASIMO and Ma to Detroit as part of its recent \$1 million donation to the symphony for music education efforts. The donation will pay for introductory music training and outreach in schools and will help young musicians get access to instruments and private lessons.



AP
Honda's ASIMO robot conducts the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as it performs "Impossible Dream" during a concert in Detroit, Tuesday, May 13, 2008. Honda Motor Co. designed ASIMO, which stands for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility.

Charles Burke, the Detroit Symphony's education director, said just 30 percent of Detroit schoolchildren have access to music programs. The statistics are similar in other urban districts, Burke said, and suburban districts are also cutting music programs as the economy worsens.

“The Detroit Symphony already has a deep commitment to education, but we wanted to really put the country on notice

that we are going to take it even more seriously,” Burke said.

Antonio Jackson, a 15-year-old cellist who attends the Detroit School of Arts, was blown away by his chance to work with Ma during Wednesday's master class. Ma encouraged Jackson to put more emotion and physicality into his playing.

“Meeting Yo-Yo Ma was one of the greatest things I've ever done in my life, next to meeting (Detroit Pistons guard) Chaunc-

ey Billups,” said Jackson, who wants to study music at the Juilliard School. “I learned how to be more a part of my instrument.”

Cecilia Sharpe, who conducts one of the symphony's youth string ensembles, said music education teaches children discipline, social skills, teamwork and responsibility, and the Honda gift will allow kids to have access to instruments they couldn't otherwise afford.

“It gives them more options

even if they don't do it as a career. It's something nobody can take away from them,” Sharpe said.

Leonard Slatkin, the Detroit Symphony's music director, said ASIMO can serve as a kind of mascot for the city's efforts, since it relates well to younger people. But he joked to the students that he's not concerned about losing his job to a robot.

ASIMO, which was conducting an orchestra in a live

performance for the first time, impressed both the students and the symphony's musicians with its fluid, humanlike movements. But it can only mimic the actions of a previously videotaped conductor and can't respond to musicians. If the horns come in late or the orchestra speeds up, ASIMO can't change course in the middle of a piece.

“Ultimately, a great orchestra like Detroit's, with great instruments playing in a great hall—technology is not ever going to replace that,” said Larry Hutchinson, a bassist with the symphony.

ASIMO, which conducted the orchestra in “The Impossible Dream” from the musical “Man of La Mancha,” gestured with one or both hands and nodded its head in the direction of certain sections.

But the difference was clear when conductor Thomas Wilkins and soloist Ma took the stage. Wilkins was deft with the baton, his motions sometimes broad and sometimes delicate to match the moods of Haydn's first cello concerto. The final movement went at such a blistering tempo it was difficult to imagine ASIMO keeping up. Rick Robinson, a bassist with the symphony, said conductors won't be replaced anytime soon. But after watching ASIMO, he said he could imagine a day when a robot could stand in for a conductor who couldn't make it to rehearsals.

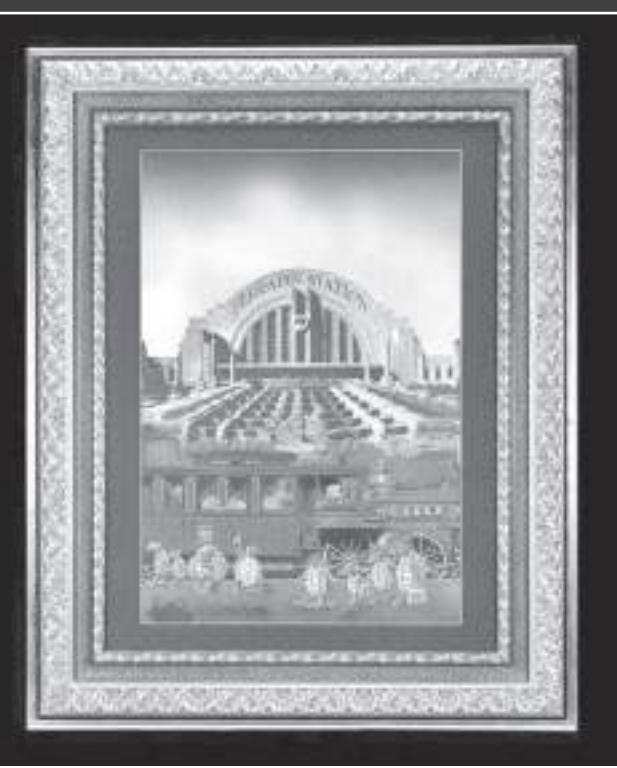
“The future's full of possibilities we may not want to imagine,” he said.

Artworks by noted psychedelic artists go to NYC auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A collection of original art by noted psychedelic artists, depicting some of the biggest names in rock 'n' roll, fetched about \$795,000 at an auction Wednesday, a spokesman for the auction house said.

Paintings, printing plates, ink drawings and painted cel vinyls of the Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix, the Doors and many other iconic artists were represented in the Peter Golding collection at Bonhams New York auction house. The 164 items included original artworks that led to final album covers and concert posters.

Golding, a British designer of the first stretch jeans, embarked on his collection after picking up a hand-drawn poster at a 1967 “happening” in London's Hyde Park. He acquired many of the works from the studio files of 1960s poster artists, including Rick Griffin, Stanley Mouse and Alton Kelley's “Greatful Dead - Terrapin Station.”



AP
This photo released by Bonhams shows Stanley Mouse and Alton Kelley's “Greatful Dead - Terrapin Station.”

that he began assembling the collection for its “cultural aspect.”

“It's urban art, contemporary art. Now it's considered pure art,” he said.



AP

This undated photo released by Sotheby's shows the three panels of Francis Bacon's “Triptych, 1976” which broke a record for contemporary art auctions Wednesday May 14, 2008, selling for \$86,281,000 after three bidders vied for it.

Francis Bacon triptych breaks record at NYC auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A three-panel masterpiece by Francis Bacon broke a record for contemporary art auctions Wednesday, selling for more than \$86 million after three bidders vied for it, a spokeswoman for the auction house said.

The \$86,281,000 price for “Triptych, 1976” also set an auction record for the British artist, Sotheby's spokeswoman Lauren Gioia said.

She said the sale also broke auction records for work by pop artist Robert Rauschenberg, who died Monday at 82. His 1963 painting “Overdrive” sold for some \$14.6 million, Gioia said.

Both buyers were anonymous, and the prices included

the auction house's commission, known as a buyer's premium.

The bidding for “Triptych, 1976” rocketed past an estimate of \$70 million for the painting, which is full of symbolism and draws on ancient Greek mythology.

The price also bested the \$72.8 million auction record for contemporary art, set when Mark Rothko's “White Center (Yellow, Pink and Lavender on Rose)” sold at Sotheby's in May 2007.

Rothko's “Orange, Red, Yellow” was expected to fetch \$30 million to \$40 million at Wednesday's auction. But it was not sold after bidding fell short of the seller's minimum price, Gioia said. Rothko died in 1970.

Bacon, who died in 1992 at 82, is considered one of Britain's most important 20th century artists. The previous auction record for a Bacon work was \$52.7 million, for his “Study for Innocent X, 1952,” sold at Sotheby's last May.

The triptych that sold Wednesday has been in the same owner's collection for more than 30 years, according to Sotheby's.

It was purchased in 1977 from the Galerie Claude Bernard in Paris. The Tate Gallery in London and the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris also have shown it.

Another Bacon triptych, “Studies for Self Portrait,” sold for \$28 million at Christie's on Tuesday night.

It's indie movies vs. Indy's movie at Cannes fest

CANNES, France (AP)—The Cannes Film Festival usually starts with a movie that's light and goes down easy. So Wednesday's dark, apocalyptic opening film seemed a puzzling choice—even to the movie's director.

"Blindness" by director Fernando Meirelles, whose films include "City of God," and "The Constant Gardener," is about an epidemic of blindness that strikes suddenly and inexplicably, with victims shunted off to a squalid institution. Compare that to past opening night films that have generally been festive or crowd-pleasing—like "Moulin Rouge" or "The Da Vinci Code."

"To be honest, I still don't think that this is the best film to open the festival," said Meirelles, whose movie stars Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Gael Garcia Bernal and Danny Glover and is based on a novel by Portuguese Nobel laureate Jose Saramago.

Luckily, Jack Black was in town with a little comic relief.

While critics pondered the symbolism of "Blindness" in a darkened cinema, paparazzi hit the beach to capture the funnyman pulling a publicity stunt for "Kung Fu Panda," DreamWorks' tale of a pudgy panda with a love of martial arts.

Black made a dramatic Cannes entrance by boat, then hopped onto a pier alongside 40 people wearing giant panda suits. Black, who provides the voice of the panda, quickly went into character.

"They just said, 'Go down that red carpet and say something,' so I just started doing some kung fu," Black said. His movie screens Thursday.

Eva Longoria, Cate Blanchett, Faye Dunaway, Aishwarya Rai and Mischa Barton were among the stars on the red carpet Wednesday. The festival honored jury president Sean Penn with a video tribute at the opening ceremony. Singer-guitarist Richie Havens—who opened Woodstock—sang, giving Penn a hug afterward.

Angelina Jolie, Harrison Ford, Woody Allen, Penelope Cruz and Robert De Niro are also expected in town during the 12-day festival, while Madonna and Sharon Stone are to turn up at an AIDS benefit dinner on Cannes' sidelines.

Cannes prides itself on offering something for everyone—from Hollywood blockbusters to the art films that are the festival staple. But that doesn't stop critics from grumbling that Cannes has succumbed to Hollywood.

This year, the big question is whether indie movies will be overshadowed by Indy's movie—"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," which plays here this weekend.

The festival's dual nature is apparent for anyone strolling down Cannes' main drag, the Croisette. On one side is Cannes' official poster: indie filmmaker David Lynch's arty photo of a mysterious blond bombshell. On the other is a hotel facade dressed up for "Indiana Jones" festivities to look something like a plastic temple of doom.

"Kung Fu Panda" and "Indiana Jones" are not competing for prizes. The jury—led by Penn and including director Alfonso Cuaron, actress Natalie Portman and comic book artist-director Marjane Satrapi

("Persepolis")—will hand out awards at a ceremony May 25.

Penn said he didn't have any particular guidelines for his jury.

"The idea is to be wide awake with an empty bladder at the beginning of every film," Penn joked.

Penn also made clear that he wouldn't be biased for or against Clint Eastwood's competition film, "Changeling," a missing-child drama. Eastwood directed Penn in "Mystic River," which won him an Academy Award for acting.

"How many movies would we say (Eastwood has) made since I was born in 1960? So that's a lot of movies. In fact, he's only offered me one," Penn quipped. "So I don't think there's a bias involved."

Like "Changeling," "Blindness" is also up for the top prize. Moore plays a woman who can see in a world of the blind. Pretending to have lost her vision, she accompanies her husband, a blind eye doctor (Ruffalo), to a filthy institution neglected by the authorities.

The themes of mayhem, mass hunger and displacement in "Blindness" evoked familiar events, including Hurricane Katrina and the world crisis over skyrocketing food prices. Meirelles said the movie is about "the fragility of civilization."

Moore, who also appeared in another bleak apocalyptic film, Cuaron's "Children of Men," said it's no coincidence that such movies are getting made.

"I think that there is sometimes something in the zeitgeist ... there's a tremendous amount of tragedy right now, physical tragedy and man-made tragedy," she said. "And we are feeling anxious, and we're paying attention to it."



AP

Actor Jack Black participates in a stunt on the Carlton beach pier for the film "Kung Fu Panda" during the 61st Cannes International Film Festival in Cannes, southern France, Wednesday, 14 May, 2008.

Eloise returns to the Plaza Hotel

NEW YORK (AP)—Eloise, the Plaza hotel's most famous fictitious resident, has officially returned to the storied landmark following a \$400 million renovation—with a portrait of the mischievous 6 year old prominently displayed near its famous Palm Court dining room.

On hand for the unveiling Wednesday was Jordana Beatty, the 9-year-old Australian actress who will play Eloise in the upcoming feature film adaptation of "Eloise in Paris," opposite Uma Thurman.

"Children of all ages have been asking for Eloise and it is our pleasure to have her call The Plaza home once again," said Shane Krige, the hotel's general manager.

Eloise, known to fans worldwide from the children's book by Kay Thompson, is an endearing fixture at the hotel. An "Eloise" bubble bath, accompanied by milk and cookies, is available to all guests, and a children's menu, which pictures Eloise on a tricycle, is available in all of The Plaza's restaurants.



AP

Actress Jordana Beatty poses for photographers after the unveiling of a portrait of Kay Thompson's character "Eloise" at the Plaza Hotel Wednesday, May 14, 2008 in New York.

lar pose for photographs as her character in the painting, who stands with an outstretched hand resting on a Corinthian column of the Palm Court.

The portrait was returned to its original spot on a wall outside the sumptuous restaurant, whose stained-glass ceiling, covered with plaster in the 1940s, was uncovered and restored during the two-year renovation.

The Plaza, a National Historic Landmark, first opened in 1907. It officially reopened to the public on Sunday after its new owners, Elad Properties, converted the hotel's original 805 guest rooms into 282 hotel rooms and 181 condominiums.

The hotel has a colorful and iconic past. Marilyn Monroe was photographed there, the Beatles stayed there and Frank Lloyd Wright lived there. The hotel ballroom was the setting for Truman Capote's "Black and White Ball" and the wedding of Richard Nixon's daughter Julie. Many movies have been shot there, including "North by Northwest," "Barefoot in the Park," "Crocodile Dundee" and "Home Alone 2."

CBS network adds more comedy to its fall schedule

NEW YORK (AP)—At a time when sitcoms seem like a fading art, CBS is staying on the laugh track.

The network said Wednesday it will air six comedies instead of four next fall. CBS has confined its comedies to Mondays in recent years, but will air Julia Louis-Dreyfus' "The New Adventures of Old Christine" and a new comedy with Jay Mohr as a recently divorced painter on Wednesdays.

"Expanding our comedy block is something we've wanted to do for a long time," CBS scheduling chief Kelly Kahl said, "and this year we had the horses to do it."

CBS, which announced its schedule to advertisers Wednesday, canceled the drama "Shark" and the gothic thriller "Moonlight." The network will move "Without a Trace" to Tuesday and "The Unit" to Sunday.

CBS renewed "How I Met Your Mother," a show with a questionable future until guest shots by Britney Spears gave it some juice this spring. The second new comedy, "Worst Week," is a single-camera show about a bungling magazine editor. The comedy "Rules of Engagement" will be back midseason.

CBS, which is likely to drop to second behind Fox after several years as the nation's most popular network, will add three dramas in the fall.

"Eleventh Hour" is from the production team behind "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and won the Thursday 10 p.m. ET time slot be-

hind that hit. It's about a brilliant biophysicist who helps the government investigate scientific crises.

"The Ex List" stars Elizabeth Reaser of "Grey's Anatomy" as a woman told by a fortune teller that she must marry within a year or be single forever. The catch: She's already met the man she'll marry, she just doesn't know it yet.

Simon Baker stars in "The Mentalist," about a former celebrity psychic who becomes a detective and uses his expertise at reading people to solve crimes.

Unlike ABC, which said its development process was hurt by the 100-day writers strike and will air only two new shows in the fall, CBS Entertainment President Nina Tassler said "it did not derail us at all."

Network executives spent much of their time during the strike scanning the globe for programming ideas; "The Ex List" is a remake of a successful series in Israel.

"Moonlight," which has a small but devoted fan base, was a tough call to cancel, but Tassler said CBS was influenced by its experience with "Jericho." Fans of the drama inundated CBS with mail after it was canceled last year, and the network brought it back. But the show didn't expand its audience and was axed again.

CBS will work with its drama producers to bring more of the characters' personal lives into the shows, she said.

Room rates start at \$1,000 a night.



In this Feb. 23, 2008 file photo, Angelina Jolie, left, and Brad Pitt arrive at the 2008 Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, Calif.

Jack Black spills the beans: Jolie expecting twins

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie is indeed expecting twins, and it was Jack Black who let the news slip with a "Brady Bunch" crack. Long rumored to have two children by Brad Pitt on the way, Jolie confirmed the news during a side-by-side "Today" show interview with Black, her "Kung Fu Panda" co-star. The two are in Cannes, France, promoting the animated film.

The twins will be the 5th and 6th children for Jolie and Pitt. She didn't volunteer the information until Black dropped the hint, joking that the couple will "have as many as (the) 'Brady Bunch' when you have these."

"It's confirmed?" followed "Today" interviewer Natalie Morales.

"Yeah, yeah, we've confirmed that already," Jolie said. "Well, Jack's just confirmed it actually."

"Is that true?", Black said jokingly.

"Yeah, you did," Jolie replied.

"Sorry," Black said.

Excerpts of the interview will air tonight on "Access Hollywood," with the full interview airing Thursday on NBC's "Today."



Niger Innis from the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), left, and Duane "Dog" Chapman laugh during a press conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

'American Idol' gets down to its final 2 contestants

NEW YORK (AP)—It'll be David vs. David.

Syesha Mercado was voted off "American Idol" Wednesday night, paving the way for the expected showdown between David Archuleta and David Cook.

Mercado, a 21-year-old actress from Sarasota, Fla., was the last woman standing on the top-rated Fox contest. The big-voiced belter surpassed a more accomplished singer (Carly Smithson), a fan favorite (Brooke White) and a statuesque country crooner (Kristy Lee Cook).

While other contestants floundered, Mercado challenged herself with ambitious song choices like Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come." She showed more personality—and lots of leg—while swiveling her hips in a glittery gold minidress for a rendition of "Proud Mary." She cried when Paula Abdul gave her a standing ovation last week.

Abdul held the sugar on Tuesday's performance show, telling Mercado that she thought her performance of "Hit Me Up" wasn't "good enough to get into the finals."

With Mercado out of the way, "Idol" can now fully hype the David vs. David matchup.

There's Archuleta, the 17-year-old singing prodigy from Murray, Utah, with the overly involved stage dad. And there's Cook, the 25-year-old former bartender from Blue Springs, Mo., with an emo edge that the angelic Archuleta lacks.

Who will snag the title next Wednesday?

One thing is for sure: His name will be David.



In this March 6, 2008, file photo American Idol contestant Syesha Mercado attends the "American Idol" annual Top 12 Party in West Hollywood, Calif.

Sean Penn: an unorthodox president of Cannes jury

CANNES, France (AP)—Sean Penn may be president of the Cannes Film Festival jury—but don't expect any buttoned-up presidential behavior from the Hollywood rebel.

During a news conference on opening day Wednesday, the actor-director lit up two cigarettes in defiance of French laws against smoking in public buildings. He used the F-word. And he poked fun at his reputation.

Asked by a reporter if he could confirm that he had hesitated before taking the jury presidency because it means being "wise and sober" for 12 days, the "Into the Wild" director quipped, "How many days have I got left?"

Penn, a regular at Cannes, won the best actor award here for "She's So Lovely," and he showed his own movies "The Pledge" and "The Indian Runner" here. When Clint Eastwood's "Mystic River" played at Cannes, it generated early buzz for Penn's performance, which went on to win an Academy Award.

Penn wasn't all jokes and antics at Cannes—he also let



American actor, director and jury president Sean Penn and Israeli-American actress Natalie Portman talk whilst on stage at the opening night ceremony during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

his serious, thoughtful side shine through, urging reporters to see a documentary that the festival included at his special request. "The Third Wave" is Alison Thompson's look at volunteers who joined relief efforts in Sri Lanka after the 2004 tsunami.

"I thought that it was the closest thing that I had ever seen on film to giving any kind of an-

swer to 'what's the purpose of life?'—at least for those who might be lucky enough to have two good legs and a dollar in their pocket," he said.

Penn also talked politics, saying that he's not supporting any particular candidate in the U.S. presidential election, though he is "encouraged by the kind of exciting support that Barack Obama has."

'Dog the Bounty Hunter' to return to A&E

HONOLULU (AP)—Bounty hunter Duane "Dog" Chapman's cable TV show will soon be back on the air. Filming has begun on the fifth season, according to executives with A&E, the cable network that broadcast "Dog the Bounty Hunter. Reruns of the show will start June 25, with new episodes coming a few weeks later.

The show features Chapman and crew chasing down bail jumpers in Hawaii and

other states. It was pulled from the air in November when Chapman was heard in a taped phone conversation using a racial slur in reference to his son's girlfriend, who is black.

A&E spokesman Michael Feeney says Chapman isn't a racist, and that network executives felt he deserves a second chance after working on redeeming himself over the last few months.

Follow these basic rules when visiting terminally ill

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have just returned from visiting a close friend in the next town. She was exhausted from caring for her husband, who has terminal cancer—but even more so from the many visits from loving friends and relatives around the country.

I experienced the same thing a few years ago, so I'm hoping you will help me to inform people of some basic rules for visiting families going through this profoundly trying experience.

- Don't go for a "vacation," but rather to lend support—and only if there is no objection.
- Go healthy. Remember, the patient has no immunity after chemotherapy.
- Provide your own transportation. Stay in a motel unless the home is large and the hostess has asked you to stay.
- Keep visits short and positive. Long conversations are exhausting.
- Provide food, preferably ready-cooked for simplicity, and do the cleanup.
- Leave the house for periods of time (even a day or two) so the family can resume their medical routine.
- Change the bed if you stay in the home. Remember, there is no maid service.
- And last, require nothing of the family. There is nothing left for them to give.

Thank you, Abby, for letting me speak for so many.

—GOT IT OFF MY CHEST

DEAR GOT IT: Well said. I particularly like your recommendations to stay someplace other than the home, to keep visits short so as not to deplete the patient, and not to expect to be entertained in any way. In life-or-death situations, the normal rules of hospitality do not apply, so ask not what your hosts can do for you, but what you can do for them—and abide by what they tell you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 16-year-old high school girl. I'm friendly, cheerful, religious and an honors student. I am also addicted to pornography.

Over the past few years I have been an on-again, off-again addict. I'll look, feel good, feel bad, swear never to do it again, stay clean for a few months and then start again.

A few months ago I told my mother what I was doing, and she agreed to monitor the situation. But I know how to delete my online history, so she doesn't know I'm doing it again.

I'm scared. I'm a virgin and would like to stay that way. But I'm starting to feel apathetic toward my grades, I'm thinking more about sex, I have lost respect for most of the opposite sex, and I'm one step from acting out.

If I tell Mom, I know she'll take away my computer. The best friends I have are online. I'll be isolated if she takes it away. I'm also not sure I want to quit looking. It makes me feel good and keeps me from being stressed, but my religion and the changes in my behavior tell me it's wrong.

I mentioned it to my school counselor once. She said I'm just "expressing my sexuality in my own way." Is she right? Or do I need help? What should I do?

—ADDICTED AND ASHAMED IN IOWA

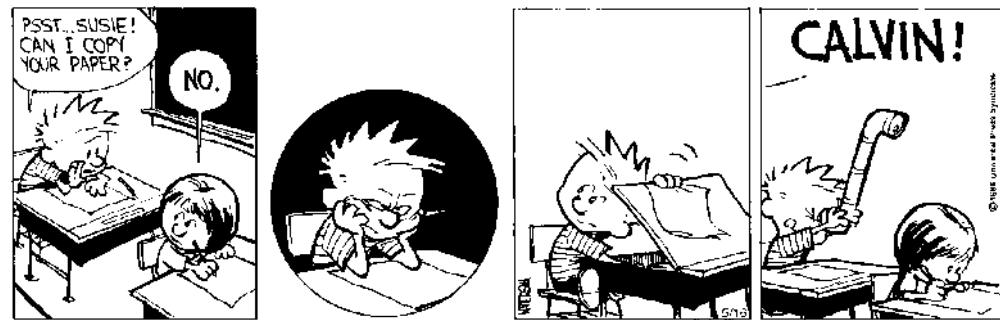
DEAR ADDICTED: Forgive me for disagreeing with your counselor, but the problem with pornography is the distorted vision it gives viewers of what sex is really about. Addiction, by definition, is being consumed by and unable to stop a behavior. If you think you are alone in this problem, let me assure you that you are not.

Please tell your mother what's going on. You should talk to a licensed professional who has been trained in the treatment of addiction. This does not mean you must give up your computer—simply moving it to a central location might help. But conquering your problem will take professional help, and I urge you not to wait to ask for it or you will find yourself in even more serious trouble.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

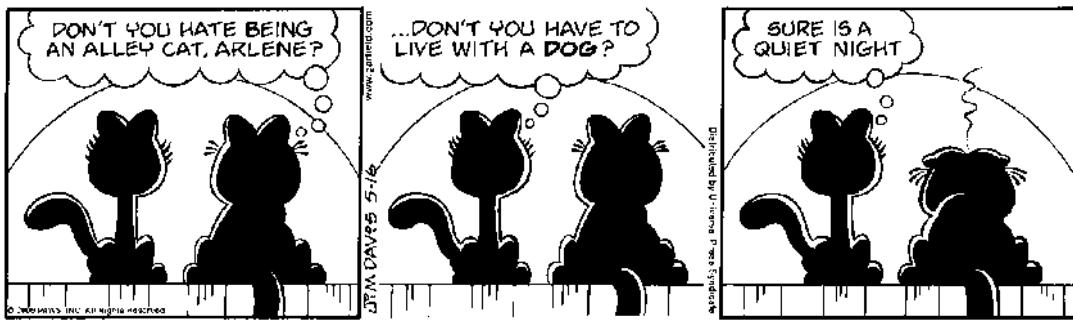
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



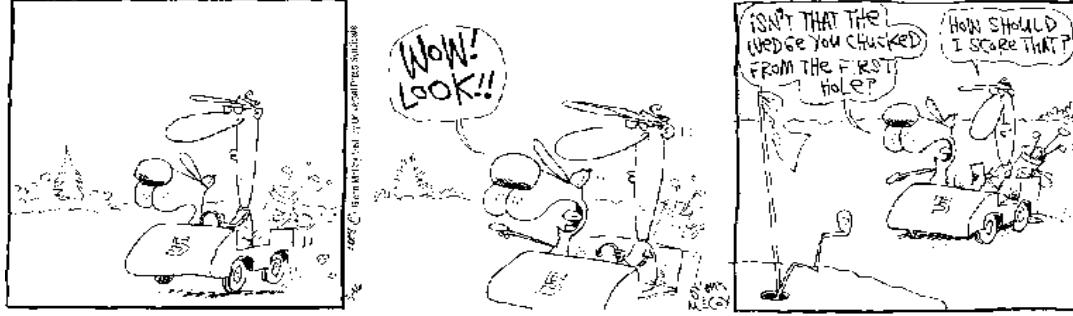
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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7	Corn	52	About	53	Worship	54	Actress	55	5.88	56	5.88	57	Priestly	58	Delibes	4	Le	5	Delibes	
12	Rhyming	59	Roscoe	60	Farrow	61	Farrow	62	trillion	63	Roscoe	64	Garment	65	LGA	6	Foretell	7	Jeff's pal	
13	Water	66	Worship	67	Past	68	Lemieux	69	miles	70	Wye	71	Garment	72	Hearty	8	Priestly	9	Lemieux	
14	Cause of	73	Worship	74	Give a leg	75	milieu	76	miles	77	Screw up	78	milieu	79	brew	10	Give a leg	11	milieu	
15	Pouch	80	Neithe-	81	up	82	milieu	83	milieu	84	11	Neithe-	85	milieu	86	Ginor-	12	up	13	milieu
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23	Cambodia	34	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	24	25	26	27
27	Roulette	35	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	25	26	27	28
29	Frail	37	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	26	27	28	29
31	Lacy	38	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	27	28	29	30
32	blouse	39	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	28	29	30	31
33	attachment	40	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	29	30	31	32
34	Foe	41	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	30	31	32	33
35	Lam	42	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	31	32	33	34
37	Pooch	43	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	32	33	34	35
38	Small	44	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	33	34	35	36
39	barrels	45	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	34	35	36	37
41	Unclose,	46	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	35	36	37	38
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43	notice?	48	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	37	38	39	40
44	Final	49	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	38	39	40	41
45	notice?	50	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	39	40	41	42
46	notice?	51	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	40	41	42	43
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56	notice?	61	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	50	51	52	53

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STUMPED?

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CLASSIFIED ADS



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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-DPH-068

SUBMISSION: JUNE 13, 2008

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDICAID DATA SYSTEM DESIGN FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, CNMI MEDICAID OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF SERVICES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR
WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 03, 2008 AT
10:00 A.M. AT DR. JOSE VILLAGOMEZ BUILDING/HEMODIALYSIS CENTER
CONFERENCE ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER
PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST
BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

Maintenance Building Repairer:
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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

K
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PIECE
PIECE

Find today's solution in this section

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TIANYUAN OVERSEAS(CNMI) ENGINEERING LLC.
PO BOX 800, TINIAN MP96952

Local Hiring Plan for Tinian Oceanview Resort Construction
A Bridge Investment Group Project

Position	Amount	Description	Requirement	Salary	Remark
Safety officer	1	Instructing the construction meeting OSHA requirement; safety management for construction.	Familiar with OHSA requirement for construction and have 5 years experience at least on construction and safety management	\$7/hour	Negotiable according to the personal ability
Office assistant	1	Handle affairs for office and arrange related affairs for project operation and management.	Familiar with Office software, have 3 years experience at least on handling office affairs.	\$5.5/hour	
Electrician	1	Handle site electric affairs at project site; serving for the project on supplying electricity.	Have at least 5 years experience on CNMI for electricity occupation. Skillful on handling electricity works for construction project.	\$4.25/hour	
Mason	1	Doing brickworks and plastering, pouring concrete, etc and related works for construction	Have at least 4 years experience on CNMI for construction mason occupations.	\$4.25/hour	
Heavy equipment operator	1	Operating heavy equipment such as excavator, loader, backhoe, etc.	Familiar with operating heavy equipment and general maintenance, and have at least 3 years experience.	\$5.5/hour	

For inquiries, please contact Tony Tang, Assistant to General Manager tel# (670) 433-1111/8888 or by Email at tony.cnty@gmail.com

HOUSES FOR RENT

- Concrete house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, two cars garage and an extra room in the basement with own bathroom in the MSV Family Compound in Fina Sisu. \$1,200.00 a month. Semi-Furnished.
- A large two story concrete house with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 1/2 car garage, large kitchen, family room upstairs, living/dinning downstairs, walk-in closet. Located in Kagman III Homestead Area, Agatlang Ave. \$800.00 a month. Semi-Furnished.
- Two Bedroom one bath concrete duplex house located north of Sister Remedios School, Monica Street. \$600.00 a month. Furnished. NMHC approved.

Utilities not included. Deposit required. Call 234-6108.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP No.: 2008-CDA-05-RFP**

CLOSING DATE: Monday, June 9, 2008

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"INSURANCE FOR CDA PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting, CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
Director, P&S

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

- 3-Liner
- 5-Liner
- 3-Liner with picture
- 5-Liner with picture

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

- \$25
- \$35
- \$45
- \$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Power Generation**



**INVITATION FOR BIDS
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
CUC-IFB 08-004 - INSTALLATION OF RADIATORS**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids for the INSTALLATION OF RADIATORS at the Power Plant 1, Lower Base in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Sealed bids shall be identified on outside of the envelope by Invitation for Bids No. "CUC-IFB 08-004, INSTALLATION OF RADIATORS at the Power Plant 1". Bids in six sets (including original) will be accepted at the Procurement and Supply Office, CUC, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan until **2:00 P.M., on, May 30, 2008**, at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid documents can be picked up from the office of CUC Procurement and Supply upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$150.00 until **4pm, May 23, 2008**. Only the bidders who have paid the fee will be allowed to submit a bid proposal. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the procurement regulations of the CUC.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. No advance payment will be authorized on the project.

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a COPY of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project will be funded through a grant from the US Department of Interior (DOI). The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

The project consists, in general the installation of the CUC supplied radiators at the power plant for engine units no. 5 and 6 at Power plant 1. The radiators are manufactured by CBM Technologies Pty. Ltd. and are expected to be available at the power plant facility by July.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 A.M., on May 15, 2008**, at the CUC Power Plant Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan, immediately followed by plant visit.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to Mr. Manny Sablan, Procurement and Supply Manager and Mr. Venugopal, Flower Generation Engineer email at msablan@cucgov.net / venu@cucgov.net or through / or through Fax - (670) 235-5131

ANTHONY C. GUERRERO
Executive Director



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW08-RFP-021**

**PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR
THE LAKE SUSUPE BOARDWALK TRAIL PROJECT, SAIPAN**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Secretary of the Department of Public Works, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), are soliciting sealed proposals from individuals and/or firms for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) Report for the Lake Susupe Boardwalk Trail Project, Saipan.

The selected individuals and/or firms will be retained for the preparation, development, and submittal of a complete Environmental Assessment (EA) Report in accordance with applicable local and federal regulations as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it applies to all Office of Insular Affairs, United States Department of the Interior funded projects. This report will be used in the planning and development of an acceptable design for the project. The individuals and/or firms will be responsible for the planning, coordination, research, preparation, presentations, and other related tasks necessary to complete the EA as directed by the Director of the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works.

The estimated completion time for this project is (180) calendar days from the issuance of the written Notice to Proceed.

The procurement of this RFP is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Rules and Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 3-103 of the Regulations. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after 8:00 a.m., **Friday, May 16, 2008** at the Department of Public Works 2nd Floor-Oleai Commercial Building Office, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the Department of Public Works 2nd Floor-Oleai Commercial Building Office. A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for Thursday, **June 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Technical Services Division 2nd Floor-Oleai Commercial Building Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to W. Joseph M. Ios Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW, Oleai Office, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. **Friday, June 20, 2008**. A list of all questions and responses will be provided to each respondent and transmitted via facsimile.

Selection of the top three (3) most technically qualified, responsive, and responsible Firm will be made based on the following criterias:

Technical Requirements:

1. Qualifications and resumes of the individual(s) and/or firm(s) to be assigned to the project and associated responsibilities	40%
2. Past Experience of the individual(s) and/or firm(s) on similar projects of size and scope	30%
3. Proposed Approach and Methodology of the individual(s) and/or firm(s) to complete the work, including timetables of deliverables	20%
4. Current workload and ability to complete the scope of work within the time frame	10%

Award shall be based on the provisions set forth in Section 3-103-(8), award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation and the contract file shall contain the basis on which the award is made. Within three working days after the date of contract award, the P&S Director shall provide written notification to each unsuccessful offeror.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW08-RFP-021". For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, June 25, 2008. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, June 25, 2008, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.com For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 25, 2008- AND must be received no later than July 2, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of Copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

This procurement is funded through the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA). Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

All responses to this PFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project including excise tax. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor, Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Acting Secretary, of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System**

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



**Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-028**

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids from Regionally Accredited Institutions of Higher Learning for the Extension of College Level Coursework Leading to the Completion of a either a Bachelor's or Master's Degree. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-028" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **May 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-028, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

**/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education**

**/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P&S Officer**



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System**

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

**Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-029**

The Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Delivery of Mobility Equipped Vans**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-029" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-029, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3068 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

**/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education**

**/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P&S Officer**

Henin retires from tennis immediately



LIMELETTE, Belgium (AP)—The determination that helped Justine Henin beat bigger, stronger opponents time and again was fading.

"I decided," the 25-year-old Belgian said, "to stop fooling myself and accept it."

Henin retired from tennis Wednesday, an abrupt ending to a career in which she won seven Grand Slam singles titles and spent more than 100 weeks ranked No. 1.

She announced her decision at a news conference 1 1/2 weeks before the start of the French Open, where she has won the past three titles and four overall.

Put simply, she realized she was burned out, and became the first woman to quit the sport while atop the WTA rankings.

"I always based everything on this motivation—this flame—that was in me. And once I lost that, I lost many, many things," Henin said.

Surprising as her departure was to the rest of the world, it seemed somehow inevitable to her.

After reaching the final at each Grand Slam tournament in 2006, she won 10 tournaments in 2007, including two majors. But this season, she started to find it an ever bigger chore to pack her luggage to travel to tournaments. Her legs felt heavy when she should have been dancing in the backcourt, ready to turn another one of those sparkling backhands into a winner.

When she was hurt, she no longer minded if an injury lingered. Ever since being discovered as a child prodigy, tennis was everything to Henin. Now, though, tennis was making it clear that her time was up.

"Everything became harder," Henin said. "I felt, deep inside, something was getting out of my grasp."

She lost 6-4, 6-0 to Maria Sharapova



Belgium's Justine Henin gestures towards journalists after a media conference at Justine N1 tennis club in Limelette, Belgium, Wednesday, May 14, 2008. Wednesday Henin announced she retires from professional tennis.

in the Australian Open, then 6-2, 6-0 to Serena Williams at the Sony Ericsson Open in April—the worst loss for a top-ranked player in nine years.

At last week's German Open, Henin lost 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 to Dinara Safina. Then she pulled out of this week's Italian Open, citing fatigue.

"At the end of the match in Berlin, (retirement) all of a sudden was there as something evident," Henin said.

Her announcement came a day after one of the greatest female golfers in history said she's quitting: Annika Sorenstam, owner of 10 major titles and one of six women to complete a career

Grand Slam in her sport, is walking away at the end of the season.

Henin, however, won't have any sort of farewell tour. She is retiring immediately.

"I had reached my limits, and I feel strong and relieved that I could take this decision," she said. "There are plenty of things that I can do. There are no regrets. I did everything I had to do in tennis."

In addition to her four French Open titles, Henin won the Australian Open in 2004, and the U.S. Open in 2003 and 2007. She has been ranked No. 1 since Nov. 13, 2006, except for a seven-week period last year when Sharapova held the top spot, and won nearly \$20 million in career prize money.

"She was a great champion," said Williams, who lost to Henin in a contentious 2003 French Open quarterfinal, "and she gave me a world of trouble."

The only Grand Slam title to elude Henin is Wimbledon, where she was runner-up in 2001 and 2006.

"Winning Wimbledon would not make me happier than I am," she said.

Winning again at Roland Garros would make no difference, either, no matter how much that event means to her. Henin dedicated her first victory there to her mother, who died of cancer when Justine was 12. When Henin won there last year, it capped a reunion with her father and siblings, from whom she'd been estranged for several years.

"That was awesome. It was a great feeling, and I am going to keep that feeling forever now," she said. "I won Roland Garros four times, three times in a row. I don't have to live that moment again. I know how it was."

Throughout her career, Henin has had to beat the odds.

With her 5-foot-5 3/4, 126-pound frame, she had to figure out how to deal with foes who could hit the ball harder. With a superb one-handed backhand,

amazing speed and grit, she rose to the top of the sport.

"She always challenged herself to play her best tennis no matter what the circumstances. She was just a real fighter, so I think that was really what made her best," Venus Williams said.

"Justine Henin will be remembered as one of the all-time great champions in women's tennis, and a woman who made up for her lack of size with a will to win and fighting spirit that was second to none," WTA Tour CEO Larry Scott said. "It is rare that an athlete leaves at the very top of her game in this day and age, but Justine has always played by her own rules, in the very best sense of those words."

Henin was away from the tour for months at a time in 2004 and 2005 because of an energy-sapping blood virus and assorted injuries, including to her knee and back. In early 2007, she divorced from Pierre-Yves Hardenne and dropped his last name.

Throughout last season, Henin said she had finally found a balance in her life between personal self-fulfillment and doggedly pursuing tennis titles.

Now it appears that changed. Perhaps she took note when Kim Clijsters—another Belgian who was ranked No. 1 and won a Grand Slam title—retired at 23 last year. Clijsters has since married and become a mother.

Dressed in a simple white T-shirt and jeans, her brown hair in a ponytail, Henin spoke in French for nine minutes before taking questions Wednesday. She never lost her composure and held the microphone firmly.

The news conference was at the Justine N1 academy in a village about 20 miles outside of Brussels. It has a smattering of her beloved clay courts, where she wants to train and coach youngsters.

Family and children may come, but for now, and for once, there is no rush.

day night to move within a win of the Eastern Conference finals.

Paul Pierce scored 29 and helped shut down LeBron James for much of the second half to give Boston a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven conference semifinal. James scored 23 of his 35 points in the first half and was mostly quiet in the second before scoring six in the final 3:26 after Boston was well in the lead.

Game 6 is Friday night in Cleveland, with the deciding game in Boston on Sunday - if necessary.

James was 12-of-25 from the field, but only 4-of-11 in the second half and missed all five 3-pointers.

Cleveland cut an 88-77 lead to six points with two minutes left and made it 91-87 on two free throws by Delonte West with 46 seconds to play. But Garnett got the rebound of his own miss, and Paul Pierce hit five free throws in the last 16 seconds as the Celtics ran down the clock.

The Celtics have yet to win on the road in these playoffs, allowing the eight-seeded Atlanta Hawks to go the distance before advancing from the first round. But Boston, which had an NBA-best 66-16 record in the regular season, doesn't have to win on the road to win the title.

No team has ever won a title without winning an away game. In fact, Boston could be the first team to advance out of the second round without a road win.

Kobe scores 26, Lakers beat Jazz to take 3-2 lead



LOS ANGELES (AP)—So much for Kobe Bryant's sore lower back. Bryant scored 26 points, his teammates kept Utah at bay down the stretch, and Los Angeles Lakers extended the stunning home success by NBA teams in the second round of the playoffs, beating the Jazz 111-104 on Wednesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

The Lakers, who never trailed, can advance to the conference finals for the first time since 2004 with a victory Friday night in Utah. But if form prevails, the teams will be playing a seventh and deciding game Monday night at Staples Center, where Los Angeles has a 17-3 record against the Jazz since the arena opened before the 1999-2000 season.

Home teams have won 19 of the 20 games played in the second round. The Lakers are the top-seeded team in the Western Conference, meaning they have home-court advantage through the first three rounds of the postseason.

"That's what you play for," Jazz coach Jerry Sloan said before the game. "When you start off the season, you want to try and get the home-court advantage because I think it's been pretty big in this league."

Lakers coach Phil Jackson fell short of calling Game 5 a must-win for his team beforehand, but added: "We held serve (in the first two games), they held serve (in the second two), now it's time for us to hold serve. That's what this is all about."

Bryant tweaked his back in the opening minutes of Sunday's 123-115 overtime loss at Utah that tied the series. Sore back and all, he had 33 points, eight rebounds and 10 assists while playing 46 minutes.

The MVP didn't practice Monday or Tuesday, resting and receiving treatment. Clearly, it never occurred to him that he might be seriously hindered in Game 5, much less not play.

Bryant, who also had six rebounds and seven assists, scored only three points in the fourth quarter, all from the foul line after the outcome had been decided. He didn't attempt a field goal in the final period.

Lamar Odom had 22 points and 11 rebounds, Pau Gasol added 21 points, six rebounds and eight assists, Vladimir Radmanovic scored 15 points and Derek Fisher added 14 for the Lakers, who were 17-1 during the regular season when all five starters scored in double figures.

All five Utah starters also scored in

double figures led by Deron Williams, who had 27 points and 10 assists. Carlos Boozer added 18 points and 12 rebounds, Ronnie Brewer scored a career playoff-high 16 points, Mehmet Okur had 13 points and 13 rebounds, and Andrei Kirilenko scored 12 for the Jazz.

A three-point play by Odom with 6:19 remaining gave the Lakers a 97-91 lead. But the Jazz battled back, and a 3-pointer by Williams as the shot clock wound down moved the Jazz within one point with 2:18 left.

That would be as close as the Jazz would get.

Okur's basket with 59 seconds to play made it 103-102, but two baskets by Gasol extended the Lakers' lead to 107-102 with 20 seconds remaining. Williams then missed a 3-pointer, and the Jazz were done.

The Jazz, who trailed by as many as 12 points in the second quarter, outscored the Lakers 15-8 to start the second half, tying the game at 69. Bryant scored 10 points in the quarter, including his team's final six, but the game was tied 81-all entering the final period.

The game was tied for a fourth and final time early in the fourth quarter before the Lakers went ahead for good on a foul shot by Luke Wal-

ton—his only point of the game—with 9:54 to play.

After a scoreless first quarter, Gasol shot 6-for-9 and scored 15 points in the second period, helping the Lakers outscore the Jazz 32-28 for a 61-54 half-time lead. Utah trailed by only seven points despite committing 15 turnovers in the opening 24 minutes.

Bryant showed right away his back wasn't going to be a major problem, firing in a 3-pointer and another jumper in the opening 50 seconds to give the Lakers a quick 5-0 lead. The Jazz made their first four shots—all by Brewer—but trailed 15-8 thanks to five turnovers.

Radmanovic, who averaged 5.5 points in the first four games of the series, made consecutive 3-pointers to give him 10 points and the Lakers a 25-16 lead before the Jazz trimmed the deficit to 29-26 entering the second quarter.

Celtics 96, Cavaliers 89

At Boston, someone is going to have to win in Boston to keep the Celtics from winning their 17th NBA title. Cleveland hopes for one more chance.

Kevin Garnett had 26 points and 16 rebounds, Rajon Rondo added 20 points and 13 assists, and the Celtics beat the Cavaliers 96-89 on Wednes-

Cano's 4 hits help Yankees stop streaking Rays



ST. PETERSBURG, Florida
(AP)—Robinson Cano went 4-for-4

and drove in a run to back the pitching of Mike Mussina, helping the New York Yankees end the Tampa Bay Rays' six-game winning streak with a 2-1 victory on Wednesday.

Mussina (6-3) allowed one run and five hits over 6 1-3 innings to win his fifth consecutive decision.

Cano, who tied a career high with four hits, had a RBI single in the fourth. Bobby Abreu drove in New York's other run off James Shields (4-3) with a two-out double in the fifth, and shortstop Derek Jeter started a nifty double play to end a Tampa Bay threat.

Orioles 6, Red Sox 3

At Baltimore, Jay Payton hit his fourth career grand slam to back a gritty pitching effort by Daniel Cabrera, and Baltimore rallied to beat Boston.

Solo homers by Jason Varitek and Mike Lowell, and a defensive gem by Manny Ramirez—yes, Manny Ramirez—weren't enough to prevent the Red Sox from losing their fourth straight. It was the third consecutive game in which Boston blew a three-run lead.

The Orioles trailed 3-2 before going ahead in the seventh. With two outs, Freddie Bynum was credited with an infield hit when second baseman Dustin Pedroia couldn't make a play on a grounder.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3, 12 innings

At Arlington, Texas, Miguel Cairo had a two-out RBI single in the 12th inning, and Seattle beat Texas to avoid a sweep and keep the Rangers from reaching .500.

Wladimir Balentien led off the 12th with a single off Franklyn German (1-2), and Yuniesky Betancourt sacrificed. Balentien moved to third on a deep flyout by Ichiro Suzuki, who went 0-for-6 and ended a 13-game hitting streak. Cairo then singled up the middle.

Indians 2, Athletics 0

At Cleveland, C.C. Sabathia pitched a five-hitter and struck out 11 in Cleveland's major league-leading seventh shutout.

Sabathia (3-5) extended the scoreless



AP
New York Yankees' Robinson Cano lines a ninth-inning single off Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Trevor Miller during a baseball game Wednesday night, May 14, 2008, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

streak of Indians starters to 43 1-3 innings since Friday. He tied his season high for strikeouts, walked two and won consecutive starts for the first time this season. He has a 1.49 ERA over his past five starts.

The streak is the longest by an Indians starting staff since they tossed 47 scoreless innings in August 1948. It's the longest by a major league team in one season since a 54-inning streak by Baltimore's starters from Sept. 1-7, 1974, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Blue Jays 6, Twins 5

At Minneapolis, Matt Stairs hit a grand slam and Roy Halladay rebounded from a shaky start to help Toronto beat Minnesota.

Halladay (4-5) has been the victim of

poor run support all season, getting only 3.14 runs per outing entering Wednesday. Stairs' slam in the first inning gave the right-hander a 4-0 advantage.

The Twins answered back as Justin Morneau hit his seventh homer of the season in the bottom of the first to make it 4-2 and Jason Kubel added an RBI double to make it 4-3.

Michael Cuddyer's RBI groundout tied it in the third.

Royals 2, Tigers 0

At Kansas City, Missouri, Luke Hochevar pitched six strong innings and Joey Gathright drove in the only runs, helping Kansas City beat Detroit and hand Justin Verlander his AL-leading seventh loss.

Hochevar (3-2), the first overall pick in

MILWAUKEE (AP)—After a toughened drug agreement was passed unanimously by baseball's executive council, Bud Selig expects an easy path to ratification when owners meet Thursday.

"We have no controversy. None. Zero," the baseball commissioner said Wednesday as the two-day session began.

Players and owners have until May 23 to ratify the drug agreement their negotiators signed off on last month. The deal increases the frequency of tests and the authority of the program's independent administrator.

"When you think of where we were, and where we are today, it is remarkable," Selig said.

Selig, however, didn't want to discuss this week's new indictment of home-run king Barry Bonds, charged Wednesday in federal court with 14 counts of making a false declaration to a grand jury and one count of obstruction of justice. Bonds has denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs.

"It doesn't go away," Houston Astros

owner Drayton McLane said. "I don't think it has any effect on the game right now, because I think that's an issue that Barry Bonds and his legal team need to deal with."

McLane said the public has "kind of moved on" from Bonds' legal troubles, but still hopes they come to an end soon.

"I hope this can be resolved," McLane said. "It needs to be resolved. It's been lingering for several years."

Bonds was not offered a new contract by San Francisco after last season and has not been signed by another team. The players' association last week expressed concern to the commissioner's office over the lack of offers to Bonds, asking for additional information about the offseason's free-agent market but stopping short of filing a collusion grievance on Bonds' behalf.

Selig declined comment on the collusion issue.

McLane said the Astros never considered signing Bonds, noting that Houston has plenty of talented outfielders.

"I think if you look at his age, his in-

juries that he has served, his ability to play, I just think his age and productivity (are negatives)," McLane said. "Particularly for a National League team."

With baseball trying to move on, McLane said the new drug policy is a positive step.

"I think so," McLane said. "We're learning to solve the problem."

Los Angeles Dodgers manager Joe Torre, whose team is in Milwaukee for a series against the Brewers this week, praised the union for cooperating with ownership on the new policy.

"I think it's important," Torre said. "It used to be where Major League Baseball tried to dictate to the players. I think on this subject, anyway, it's healthy that they're both trying to work something that's going to make sense and get the fans' trust back. I think that's the most important thing to me."

Selig said the culture of drug use in baseball has been altered.

"Not only do I think it's changed, I think it's changed dramatically," Selig said. "In fact, there's not a ques-

the 2006 draft, limited the Tigers to four singles while striking out five and walking three. He lowered his earned run average to 3.94 in five starts since being called up from Triple-A Omaha on April 20.

White Sox 6, Angels 1

At Anaheim, California, Carlos Quentin broke an eighth-inning tie with his first career grand slam, leading Chicago over Los Angeles in John Lackey's return to the Angels' rotation.

Sidelined since March 21 because of a strained triceps, Lackey allowed one run and six hits in seven innings. He retired 14 of 15 batters during one stretch and finished with four strikeouts and one walk. He threw 99 pitches.

Lackey had never been on the disabled list during his six previous major league seasons.

Nationals 5, Mets 3

At New York, Ryan Zimmerman homered and Tim Redding pitched two-hit ball for six innings, sending the Washington Nationals to victory over the New York Mets.

Jesus Flores hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the seventh off Aaron Heilman, who was booed on and off the mound by the Shea Stadium crowd. Washington added three more runs in the inning, sticking Claudio Vargas with a tough-luck loss in his Mets debut.

Brian Schneider homered and drove in two runs against his former club, but New York (20-18) dropped to a disappointing 3-3 on its seven-game homestand against last-place teams.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 3

At Phoenix, Micah Owings threw six shutout innings and Brandon Lyon earned his 10th straight save while Arizona continued its domination of the defending National League champion Colorado.

Orlando Hudson had a two-run double for the Diamondbacks, who have won seven of eight games against Colorado this season after being swept in the NL championship series last fall.

Braves 8, Phillies 6

At Philadelphia, Tom Glavine pitched 5 2-3 effective innings to earn his first win

MLB owners expected to ratify new drug policy

tion about that. I meet with trainers and I meet with team doctors—they will tell you."

In other developments:

-Selig hinted that punishments have been handed down to team executives in connection with the Mitchell Report on the use of performance-enhancing drugs in baseball, coming in the form of community service.

"I have stated, and it's sort of been misunderstood, anybody who has been disciplined is doing a lot of community service," Selig said. "And I think most people involved believe that was their discipline. But there's nothing new."

-Selig said MLB officials have received the Chicago Cubs' financial records and are reviewing them, another step toward the Tribune Co.'s sale of the team and Wrigley Field. But Selig said it will up to the team to release its books to potential bidders.

"We sent it back to them, they'll look at it, we'll have an agreement, then they'll go out to the bidders," Selig said.

for Atlanta since beating the Phillies on Sept. 19, 2002.

Chipper Jones, Yunel Escobar and Kelly Johnson each hit solo homers and Brian McCann drove in three runs to support Glavine (1-1), who spent the previous five seasons with the New York Mets after pitching his first 16 years in Atlanta.

He allowed four runs and four hits and took a one-hitter into the sixth.

Reds 7, Marlins 6, 10 innings

At Cincinnati, Paul Janish singled home the tiebreaking, 10th-inning run in just his second big-league at-bat after Cincinnati blew a six-run lead in the ninth.

Reney Pinto (1-2) walked two with two outs before Janish, who arrived from the minors earlier in the day, singled to right field to end it, raising his right fist in triumph. Jared Burton (2-1) pitched a perfect 10th for the win.

Astros 6, Giants 3

At San Francisco, Miguel Tejada had three hits, including the go-ahead single in the seventh, and Lance Berkman and Brad Ausmus homered for Houston.

Berkman hit his 14th home run of the season, a two-run shot off San Francisco starter Pat Misch in the first, to extend his hitting streak to 13 games. It also tied Berkman with Philadelphia's Chase Utley for the major league lead in homers.

Hunter Pence added a pair of hits for the Astros, who have won 10 of their last 12.

Dodgers 6, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, Juan Pierre hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the ninth inning, and Los Angeles overcame a three-run deficit to beat Milwaukee and stop a season-high, five-game losing streak.

Los Angeles had been 0-18 when trailing after eight innings. Milwaukee and its beleaguered bullpen have lost 10 games in which it led at some point.

Milwaukee was ahead 4-3 in the ninth when Guillermo Mota (1-2) entered. He walked Delwyn Young and allowed a single to Andre Ethier that put runners on the corners. Pierre drove a pitch deep to left-center to make it 5-4, stole third and scored on Andruw Jones' groundout.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 1

At St. Louis, Todd Wellemeyer allowed two hits into the eighth inning for St. Louis, and Albert Pujols had two hits, reaching base for the 41st straight game to start the season.

Wellemeyer (4-1) allowed Luis Rivas' single with one out in the first, then gave up only three walks before Jose Bautista singled to start the eighth. That ended an outing that matched his career best since moving into the rotation last year.

Cubs 8, Padres 5

At Chicago, Ted Lilly struck out 11 in six innings to win his third straight start, and Alfonso Soriano and Geovany Soto homered to lead Chicago past San Diego.

Backed by three RBIs apiece from Soriano and Soto, Lilly (4-4) allowed six hits and four runs in six innings. After striking out 10 against Arizona in his previous start, he fanned eight in the first four innings.

Jake Peavy (4-3) needed 87 pitches to make it through four innings. He gave up four runs and seven hits, struck out eight and walked two.

Chang is women's champ for May

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A record number of 24 participants took part in the CNMI Women's Golf Association May Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

But none shone brighter than Eun Ae Chang who fired a net score of 66 on the strength of her 27 handicap that reduced her 93 gross. She came away with a 47 in the front and a 46 in the back.

Six strokes off the pace was runner-up Kyung A. Yang, who was good for net score of 73 built around a 48-48 for a gross of 96. Yang has a handicap of 23.

Lourdes Kim, Shirlyn Jones, and Bobbie Guerrero make up the rest of the Top 5 with identical net scores of 74 each.

Yuko Togawa (75 net), Kim Yang (76), Kimiko Abe (76), Ukita Turue (76), Noriko Togawa (78), Terry Tudela (78), Masayo Miyamoto (80), Lorraine Babauta (80), Wang Lin



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of last Saturday's May Ace of the Month Tournament of the CNMI Women's Golf Association pose for a photo following their match at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

(81), Onoue Shiori (83), Doll Yamagishi (84), Sujie Guzman (87), Ok Soon Kim (88), Ham Young Mi (88), Eun Joo Song (91), Jung A Kim (91), Su Jeoung Yi (92), Kyung Ran Seo (99), and Bennett Seman (115) also took part in the May Ace of CWGA.

Established in March 2007,

CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and

opted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

the crossing is not something that many people do everyday. "It's exciting and challenging."

She said last year's attempt was a big physical and mental challenge for her since she's never done anything like that before. "This year, I was in better shape and knew what to expect."

Langford added that this year they had three paddlers who never participated in an open channel race. "Three of them have never done changes and it was their longest distance ever."

Crews change every 15 minutes while in the open sea.

She added that they used the Tinian Crossing as a training ground to help their steers person. "Steering in the open ocean is the toughest job of all paddling seats. An open ocean steers person needs to understand the swell and wind conditions to keep the canoe afloat and to prevent "spin out".

Langford said at first their steers person had a hard time but was able to understand the technique toward the tail end of the crossing. "She was exhausted by the end of the run. It is a very mental game out there. The rest of the crew loved it. It is better than a rollercoaster ride."

Cerizo and Langford agreed that the hardest part of the crossing is going back to Saipan.

"Returning is always the hardest because you're fatigued from the day prior and most of us got busy sightseeing on Tinian [for the Fiesta]."

Langford added, "The first 20 minutes on the second day returning to Saipan from Tinian [is hard]. Getting up in the morning working out all your kinks from the first day is where you question yourself."

The water this year was much bigger going to Tinian because of the wind swell. For some reason it was windy in the morning [on Saturday]. Usually the wind does not come up until midday."

Cerizo congratulated all members of the team for completing the 40-mile challenge. "It was exciting to see a couple of experienced paddlers try something new and get through

it. Even the youngest member, which is 15 years old, did amazing. He never gave up and kept up with the rest of us."

Langford said an event like the Tinian Crossing teaches the crew of about the real meaning of teamwork. "There's no way we could have done this without each other pulling for the team. It's a great feeling to be part of something like that. Michelle [Cerizo] and Nat [Calvo] are very good at motivating you to keep moving."

OGCC's Team Poksai was training for the Molokai Hoe Outrigger World Championship Race last year when they were invited by SOCC to take part in the Tinian Crossing.

The waters made for a good simulation run and helped the team decide if they can survive the waters of Molokai, which is a 42-mile channel crossing from Molokai to Oahu.

OGCC is also preparing to send a team to Hong Kong in November to compete in an around the island race, which is a 25-mile nine-member crew event.

strom 13, Dela Torre 10, Poquiz 8, Garcia 6, Tamondong 6, Irinaka 5, Nepaial 4, Villasan 4, M. Alegre 2, Johlend 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-14, 55-30, 68-54, 91-86.

Referees: Jess Pabula and Dado Vistal.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 155 – F. Pelisamen 51, Cruz 37, Rabauliman 28, Rangamar 12, Camacho 10, R. Pelisamen 10, L. Iguel 7.

TASI Tours Giants 94 – Factor 18, E. Peredo 17, Rañola 17, Aquino 12, Muleta 12, Basila 5, Talania 5, De Guzman 4, R. Peredo 4.

Scoring by quarters: 44-19, 68-40, 110-62, 155-94.

Referees: Noel Delos Santos and Jess Pabula.

13 of which came in Ol'Aces' 44-first quarter salvo. Marvin Rabauliman tallied 28 markers, while Abong Camacho and Randy Pelisamen netted 10 each.

Leo Factor led the Giants with 18 points, while Ehroll Peredo and Sahnee Rañola added 17 apiece. Bernard Aquino and Pando Muleta combined for 24 markers but could not operate freely against Ol'Aces' sticky defense.

First Game

GEC Pawnshop 91 – Rañola 32, Cacho 20, Casabuena 12, Buenabajo 10, Olivos 7, Culala 6, Peredo 3, Lopez 2.

Fixers 86 – Berline 26, Bro-

provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-ad-

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WSR From Page

ing healthy ways in which kids learn how to eat and live healthy. We don't allow them to drink soda or eat junk foods during their break. We are promoting healthy living by eating right and exercise."

Mary Jane Limes, who together with Christine Cabrera helped coach the track and field teams, thanked and congratulated all athletes for giving their best in every game.

"Thank you for the great job and effort you showed in every competition in making WSR proud. Thank you also for practicing good sportsmanship after every game."

Limes also invited other WSR students to join any sport that they would like to participate for next year. "Join us in any sport or any inter-scholastic activity next year."

PTSA adviser Luis Camacho said WSR students should always become model citizens as they graduate. "Remember where you came from when you go out to the community."

WSR boys' basketball co-captain Jake Ray and Ray Sanchez were grateful for the teamwork that the team showed when they played against other elementary schools in last week's basketball tournament.

Ray and Sanchez, who were transferees from the elementary schools of Koblerville and San Antonio and are now classmates in the 6th grade at WSR, said they had a weird feeling going up

against their former teammates.

"We played with them last year now we are from different teams. It's weird but it's part of the competition," said Sanchez.

Ray said he would practice more this summer to improve his basketball skills. "I plan to join a summer youth league where I can play against players at my age."

Other members of the team are R.J. Rudolph, R.J. Dela Cruz, Anson Ray, Jeffrey Lizza, David Yang, Stevan Roque, Elias Malite, Nathan Bautista, Michael Yap, Lujan Reyes, Karl Lacsilino, and Simon Reyes.

Boys' 8-and-under coach Limes also made special mention of Christian Morales, who had a four-gold medal sweep in all events he competed in. Morales won the gold in the 100m sprint, 400m run, and helped their 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams to a first place finish.

Other medalists in the 8-and-under division are Vincent Taman, Jovohni Santos, Christian Palacios, Jack Bibon, Alex Limes, Hedrick Ngiralmu, Joseph Maratita, Jerome Lizza, Nathan Camacho, Philip Samban, and Keitani Rudolph.

WSR's 10-and-under girls' squad, meanwhile, settled for second place behind Kagman where most of their medals coming from the relay and running events.

The members of the team are Pauline Cabrera, Denalyn Dela Cruz, Jo-Anne Liberato, Jericah Palacios, Evelyn Lizza, Tinon Rangamar, Scarla Rengul, Maria Valencia, Gina Rudolph, and Anna Canico.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay 23	17	.575	–
Boston 24	19	.558	1/2
Baltimore 21	19	.525	2
New York 20	21	.488	3 1/2
Toronto 20	22	.476	4

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland 21	19	.525	–
Minnesota 20	19	.513	1/2
Chicago 19	20	.487	1 1/2
Kansas City 18	21	.462	2 1/2
Detroit 16	24	.400	5

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles 24	18	.571	–
Oakland 23	18	.561	1/2
Texas 20	22	.476	4
Seattle 16	26	.381	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida 23	17	.575	–
Philadelphia 22	19	.537	1 1/2
New York 20	18	.526	2
Atlanta 20	19	.513	2 1/2
Washington 17	24	.415	6 1/2

Central Division

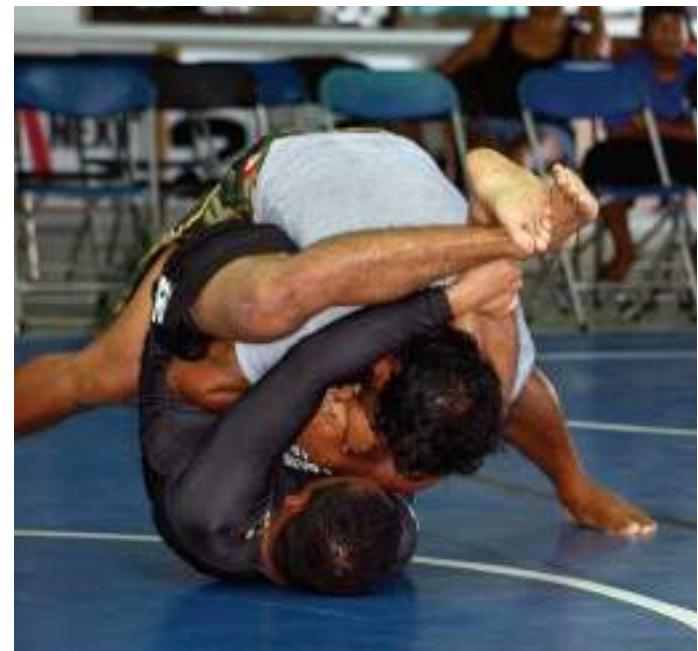
Chicago 24	16	.6

Trench Tech fighters nearly sweep Art Of War II



Competitors of last Saturday's Art Of War II pose for a group photo with organizers of the one-day All-Island Grappling/Submission Tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JON PEREZ

Ron Chisato, top, tries to get out of Pete Mendiola's stranglehold in their middleweight division elimination round match.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Featherweight division gold medalist Chris Layug, center, of Trench Tech joins teammates Jay "Furbs" Santos, right, and "Badd" Brad Palacios at the podium in last Saturday's Art Of War II All-Island Grappling/Submission Tournament at the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym's new facility in San Antonio.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Middleweight division first placer Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo, center, of Choke Chain poses with silver and bronze medal winners Jason "The Rush" Tarkong, right, and Kyle Peterson.



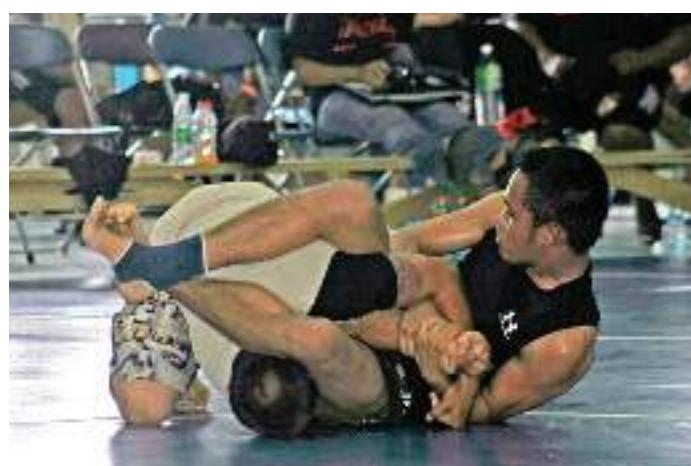
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Welterweight division Top 3 placers, from left, bronze medalist Thomas Kim, champion Ken "Kamakazi" Tanzawa, and silver medal winner Nick "2 Quick" Schumake.



JON PEREZ

Tom Kim, left, of Trench Tech grabs Ryan Ada by the neck in their bronze medal match in the welterweight division. Kim won the bronze.



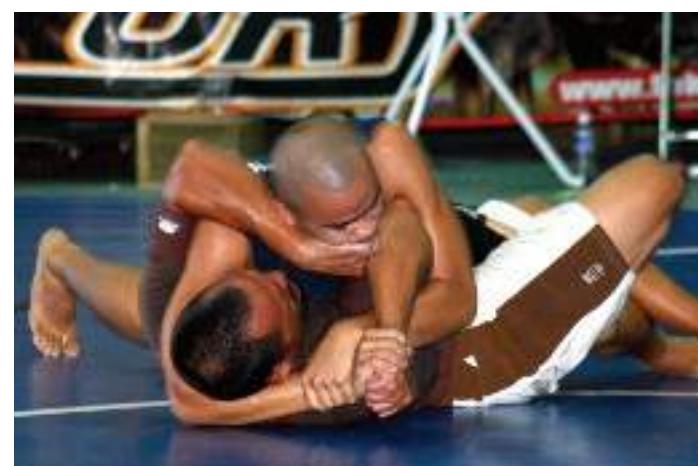
JON PEREZ

Gracie Barra's Nathan "Nats" Flores tries to twist the arm of Robert Salas in their bronze medal match in the lightweight division. Flores won the bronze.



JON PEREZ

Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios, bottom, uses the match-winning move triangle choke to force Gracie Barra's Ellis Miller to tap out in their bronze medal game in the featherweight division.



JON PEREZ

Trench Tech's Sixtus Aquino, bottom, tries to wiggle out of T.J. Castro's choke hold in their welterweight division bronze medal match. Aquino won the bronze.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Trench Tech fighters nearly swept the gold medals at stake in last Saturday's Art Of War II All-Island Grappling/Submission Tournament held at the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym's new home in San Antonio.

Trench Tech won the gold medals in the bantamweight, featherweight, super lightweight, lightweight, and welterweight divisions, while Choke Chain's Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo and Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial topped the middleweight and heavyweight classes.

Trench Tech's Shane "Pika Boo" Alvarez led the list of winners when he won the bantamweight division gold, beating Team Guam's Joel Valencia. Gracie Barra's Jay "Taby" Muna settled for the bronze.

Chris Layug completed a Trench Tech sweep in the featherweight division when he defeated teammate Jay "Furbs" Santos while compatriot "Badd" Brad Palacios won the bronze.

James Fleming prolonged Trench Tech's success when he downed Zogai's Buddy Igitol in the lightweight division's gold medal match while Trench Tech's Sixtus Aquino earned the bronze.

Veteran MMA fighter Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan of Trench Tech routed Fasi Jesse to claim the lightweight division gold medal while Gracie Barra's Nate "Nats" Flores bagged the bronze.

The welterweight division was another Trench Tech sweep with Ken "Kamakazi" Tanzawa, Nick "2 Quick" Schumake, and Tom Kim winning the gold, silver, and bronze.

Teregeyo ended Trench Tech's gold medal rush when he outsmarted Trench Tech's Jason Tarkong in the middleweight divisions' gold medal bout. Kyle Peterson of Trench Tech won the bronze.

Fitial remains one of the islands' top heavyweight fighters, winning the gold by beating Joe Ocampo of Trench Tech, while Team Xtreme's "Kill" Bill Saures won the bronze.



Trench Tech fighters nearly sweep Art Of War II

Trench Tech fighters nearly swept the gold medals at stake in last Saturday's Art Of War II All-Island Grappling/Submission Tournament held at the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym's new home in San Antonio.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

44 FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008



Henin retires from tennis immediately

The determination that helped Justine Henin beat bigger, stronger opponents time and again was fading. "I decided," the 25-year-old Belgian said, "to stop fooling myself and accept it."

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

WSR celebrate wins in sporting events

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The William S. Reyes Kingfishers yesterday celebrated their athletes' recent victories in several sporting events held over the weekend on Saipan.

The Kingfishers won the boys basketball title in last week's Public School System Inter-scholastic Basketball Tournament at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, while their 8-and-under boys' squad earned the most points to bag the division crown in the 4th Annual McDonald's All-Schools Track and Field Championship held the same day at the Susupe Sports Complex.

Their girls' 10-and-under team also settled for second place behind champion Kagman Elementary School.

The WSR Parents, Teachers, and Students Association held a party where they treated all members of the team to a Subway meal composed of a sandwich, fruit juice drink, baked cookies, and healthy chips.

WSR physical education instructor Brandon Concepcion, who coached the boys basketball team, said that is their way of teaching the kids to have a healthy lifestyle.

"Here at WSR we are implementing

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JON PEREZ

William S. Reyes coaches, from left, Christine Cabrera, Mary Jane Limes, and Brandon Concepcion join members of the boys and girls track and field team for a group photo after yesterday's victory party held at the WSR Cafeteria.

Guam paddlers also conquer Tinian Channel



Team Guam passes the World War II Sherman Tank at the Saipan Lagoon as they near Kilili Beach Park during their return trip from Tinian to Saipan in the 3rd Annual Tinian Crossing on Sunday, May 4.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



A nine-person crew from Guam also completed the dreaded and treacherous 3rd Annual Tinian Crossing that saw them join members from the Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club in conquering the two-day journey.

The Tinian Crossing is a 40-mile, two-day challenge that took place during the San Jose Fiesta in Tinian and had teams paddle from Saipan to Tinian and back. The trip back was much tougher due to fatigue and the paddlers going against the wind.

The nine-person crew was composed of Outrigger Guam Canoe Club members Afshin Amoui, Natalie Calvo, Julie Shane, Johanna Pfannenstiel, Nancy Greider, Haldre Rog-

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3-on-3 soccer at PIC on Sunday



The Pacific Islands Club sports field will once again be bustling with activity when the 7th Annual 3-on-3 Soccer Tournament returns on Sunday, May 18.

The entrance fee is \$10 per person with the registration starting at 8:30am and the actual games begin at 9:30am.

The tournament will follow a random draw, three-person format where players will be divided into advanced,

intermediate, and beginner categories. Players will be placed on four-person teams where the number of games will be based on the number of competing squads that will be formed.

The \$10 entrance fee entitles participants to a free waterpark pass for the day, while their family and friends will get a 50 percent discount for the use of PIC's waterpark facility.

Players of all skill levels are welcome to join but must be 14 years old

or older.

The event is sponsored in part by Pacific Trading Co. and Island Apparel.

Last year, Team Ireland didn't lose a single game as the team made up of Chris Nelson, Bruce Berline, and Steve McKagan won the PIC-Gatorade 3-on-3 Soccer Tournament.

Team Ireland defeated Team Argentina's Dale Roberts, Masa Otsuka, and Brad Ruszala in the finals.

For more information, call Sergei Bar-

Ol'Aces vent ire on Giants

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Former national player Fred Pelisamen put on an offensive show for Ol'Aces Wednesday night in the open division of the 2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Still hurting from their 103-105 loss to the Advance X-Terminators on May 7, Pelisamen and Ol'Aces went on a scoring rampage and vented its frustration on a hapless TASI Tours Giants side, 155-94.

The 155 points is a season-high not only for Ol'Aces but also for the whole league as well as the 61-point winning margin that eclipsed the previous high of 58 points in Ol'Aces' 112-54 win over Star Water on April 11.

Pelisamen waxed hot early in the game and was credited with 20 of Ol'Aces' 44-first quarter points, which is the most points scored



JON PEREZ

GEC Pawnshop's Dante Olivos, left, tries to look for an open teammate as Richard Brostrom of Fixers defends in their Wednesday night game in the masters division of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.